

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Lask brings hope to families in need

By Paula Ouimette
Staff writer

WARE — The year 2020 brought many already-struggling small businesses to an end, and put further financial stress on low-income families. Yet, small businesses in the “town that can’t be licked,” have found a way to survive, grow, and even give back to the community they serve. No stranger to the challenges that small businesses face, Arielle Lask, owner/director of Limelight Dance Center, 56 Pulaski St., saw a great need in her town for some holiday cheer and decided to query social media, looking to sponsor a family for Christmas.

Lask quickly found that the need was far greater than she thought, and her post was being shared far and wide. As steadily as the needs came in, so did the donations from others looking to “give back.” She was able to raise \$4,000 to provide 20 families with a Christmas that will not soon be forgotten. Lask said that many of the children only asked for one thing on their Christmas wish list, because they knew that money was tight for their families. Through the kindness and generosity of those that donated, Lask was able to provide families that reached out (and also families with the Behavioral Health Network) with every item they asked for, in addition to school supplies and clothing. “People want to give back, they just didn’t know how,” Lask said. “It gave people an opportunity to think beyond themselves and give back to people less fortunate.” After the outpouring of support



Arielle Lask and some of her students as she gathered Christmas presents for needy families this winter.

she saw at Christmas, Lask said “There’s no way I can’t not do this

every year.”

A native of Ware, Lask

first opened her dance studio, Limelight Dance Center, above her father’s clothing store, Nat Falk’s, on Main Street nine years ago at just 18-years-old. As her studio grew, so did her space, when she purchased the former White Eagle Club, at 56 Pulaski St., two years ago. Expanding a business always carries a risk, but Lask is grateful she made the move prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, as her large space can still safely accommodate her students. “Luckily, my studio, even at 25 percent capacity, can still run a full class.... we were able to install the HEPA filters and everything into the studio.”

Dancing has been Lask’s passion since she was 2-years-old, and she knows how beneficial it is for children, especially in times like these. Limelight Dance Center has become a second home for the students and their families, providing support in addition to fitness, and of course, fun. While dancing provides a creative outlet for children to express themselves through, the cost of classes, costumes, shoes and other necessities, can prove to be too much for many families to afford. To better serve the needs of children in the community, Lask established the “Chance2dance Scholarship,” for those unable to afford the cost of dance. Through this scholarship, Lask is able to fully fund dance costs for several local students.

The generosity Lask witnessed from people this past Christmas has continued in the new year as donations continue to come in,

Please see **LASK**, page 5



Owner Ryan Palladino is planning to change the Ryder Commercial Building, at 33 East Main St., from commercial space to eight studio apartments.

Apartments planned for East Main Street

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE — Planning Board members heard about a plan to change the Ryder Commercial Building at 33 East Main St. from a commercial space to eight studio apartments, and if given the go-ahead in the near future, the owner plans to have them finished by the end of 2021. It came before the board because it is a change in use, from commercial to residential, once approved.

Planning Board members said they liked the project, but encouraged owner Ryan Palladino to strike a long-term lease with the town for six parking spots before the project receives approval. He is not providing any on site parking as there is no space to do so.

He has purchased six one-year

parking passes for town lots, but the board wants to see he has at least five years of parking for his tenants. He is also trying to work with the Millyard, but those property owners are in the midst of renovating a building for a marijuana cultivation company, and are not sure how many spots the will need.

“I don’t want to hold up the project, but parking is the biggest issue we have downtown, at least from the board’s point of view,” said Planning Board Chairman Richard Starodaj.

Board members also suggested he also try contacting Country Bank, which has offered the town the use of its downtown parking lot for free parking. It also has a parking lot on Bank Street.

Please see **APTS**, page 5

Decision on remote trigger expected

Board to meet weekly

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE — At its Jan. 6 meeting, the School Committee opted to put off voting on what would trigger the district’s move from a hybrid and remote model to full remote until Health Director Judy Metcalf can advise the members.

She is scheduled to be part of the School Committee’s discussions at their meeting on Jan. 13, which will be an online Microsoft

Teams meeting at meet.google.co/dgs-borr-gta, and it will start at 6:30 p.m.

Desjardins suggested the committee begin meeting every week for the foreseeable future as the COVID-19 numbers change every week, and the other members agreed.

As with the majority of communities around the state, Ware has entered the red or high risk zone for COVID-19 as of Jan. 2, when the state released numbers from the Department of Health.

Please see **REMOTE**, page 3

“I WANT TO CLARIFY THAT THIS IS A VERY TEAR-YOU-APART DECISION TO HAVE TO MAKE FOR A LARGE COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE. IT’S HEART-BREAKING TO BE ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS AND I FEEL FOR EACH SIDE, AND TO NOT KNOW AT ANY ONE TIME WHAT THE RIGHT DECISION IS.”

JULIE SLATTERY
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER

Demolition plan funded for 114 Main St.

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE — The Community Development Authority held a public hearing Monday and approved the transfer of about \$90,000 from the fiscal 2019 Community Block Grant Funds from code enforcement to several other areas in town that need attention.

As COVID-19 safety restrictions have hampered the court system, including Land Court, where most code enforcement issues are litigated, the town found it would

not be able to spend the money by the federally-designated deadline of March 31, according to CDA Chairman Paul Opalinski.

So the board decided the best use of the money would be about \$23,000 for an engineered demolition plan for 114 Main St., between \$35,000 and \$45,000 to demolish two town-owned buildings on Parker Street and additional lighting for flood and street lighting on North, Pleasant and Bank streets.

The building at 114 Main St., which is leaning toward its neighbor, was declared a nuisance

building last year and ordered to be pulled down by Oct. 1 by its owner, 114 Main St. LLC, which did not happen.

The town has been working since the spring to do something about the building as it is holding up construction of the Main Street redesign project, which is funded with state and federal money and overseen by MassDOT. The project contractors, Ludlow Construction, brought their concerns about the building to the town and MassDOT. The compa-

Please see **DEMO**, page 3



Ware High AP students score 68th in exams

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE — While remote learning has taken a toll on schools and students around the country, some Ware Junior Senior High School students kept their heads down and their noses to the grindstone when COVID-19 led to all schools going remote last March.

Almost 50 students continued to study and did very well on their Advanced Placement tests, which led to their school coming in 68th out of about 650 high schools in the state. WJSHS Principal Gene Rich said the school ranked higher than surrounding high schools, including Quabbin Regional High School, Quabog Regional High School, Belchertown High School, Palmer High School and Monson High School. This year’s rating put Ware in the same general area as Amherst, which ranked 60th this year.

“I’m just very really proud of the work our students do,” he said. “Our students and our teachers handled this switch to remote last year despite the frustrations and the difficulties.”

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Jennifer Baublitz named executive director of Brookfield Institute

BROOKFIELD — Jennifer Baublitz has been named executive director of the Brookfield Institute, a nonprofit that builds resilience in veterans and military families in order to aggressively combat the causes and impacts of veteran suicide. Baublitz, 36, of Thompson, Connecticut, previously served as the Brookfield Institute’s program director. Founding director Beverly Prestwood-Taylor is now the chief operating officer and will be focusing on development and infrastructure. Baublitz has been with The Brookfield Institute for two years, helping to start the Women Veterans Initiative, contributing to the Resilience in Uncertain Times project and getting a new volunteer initiative, HomeFront Strong, up and running. A teacher, a leader and a member of a military family, Baublitz brings experience and knowledge to her new position. “I am thrilled and humbled to be presented with this invaluable opportunity to deliver crucial programs that are fully inclusive for all service members, veterans, and their families,” Baublitz said.

Baublitz currently teaches for three departments at Assumption University — psychology, human services and rehabilitation studies, and school counseling. She teaches “Strengthening Resilience for Service Members, Veterans, and their Families” — a course designed for clinicians and service providers. Her husband is Active Guard Reserve in the Connecticut Air National Guard; he has served for 17 years and counting. She has also served in various roles, including classroom teacher for sixth grade, behavior interventionist, consulting teacher for integration, education consultant, program consultant and program manager. “As a military spouse of 18 years with two military children at home and a background in education, counseling, and resilience, it has become my passion to integrate these specialties in service of recognizing all who serve, and



Courtesy photo
Jennifer Baublitz has been named executive director of the Brookfield Institute.

closing the gaps in services that persist as a result of exclusive criteria around access,” Baublitz said. “It is rare that the personal and professional goals of an individual align so perfectly with the mission of an organization, and yet I have managed to find just that.” Prestwood-Taylor said Baublitz will hit the ground running in her new position. “She’s not only part of a military family, but she has advanced training in resilience training and teaching,” she said. Prestwood-Taylor will continue to spearhead the Brookfield Institute’s food distribution program, which is undergoing some changes, and the Military Bereavement Support Group. The Brookfield Institute, www.brookfieldinstitute.org, was founded in 2007 with a mission to ensure every military and veteran family has the necessary support to achieve optimal social, spiritual, physical and mental health for joyful, meaningful lives. Public events, trainings, support groups and outreach help achieve that goal.

Ware Special TM postponed

WARE – The Special Town Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 19, has been postponed once again due to rising COVID-19 rates, and the fear it could further spread the virus among residents. Town Manager Stuart Beckley said it will be rescheduled to a date in late February or early March.

Originally scheduled for Nov. 30, it postponed as the COVID-19 rate began to rise after Thanksgiving and because bad weather was scheduled.

As with the majority of communities around the state, Ware has entered the red or high risk zone for COVID-19 as of Jan. 2, when the state released num-

bers from the Department of Health. Those numbers showed Ware to have a positivity rate of 5.09%, and the rate per 100,000 people to be 30.2. The numbers released on Jan. 8 showed the town’s positivity rate to be 7.34%, and the rate per 100,000 people to be 41.5. The state considers positivity rates of 5% or above and rates of 25 per 100,000 people to be considered a higher risk.

Among the articles on the warrant were included a number of capital purchases such as new vehicles for various departments and one asking that money be provided to pull down an unsafe building at 114 Main St.

Are You Old News?

Each week the Ware River News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured.

Email your answers by Monday at noon to ekennedy@turley.com.

Last week's photo featured John Wnek, right, and Kevin Madigan, with the P.F.C. Seveeny award presented to them by Joseph Pelletier and Dewey's Lounge at the Ware High School Football Boosters Banquet. It ran in January of 1984.

Those who recognize anyone in this week's photo should send that information along with their full name to ekennedy@turley.com.

Smola supports \$626.5 million economic development bill

BOSTON – Citing the pressing need to assist the state’s small businesses and create more affordable housing State Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) recently supported a \$626.5 million economic development bond bill.

House Bill 5250, An Act enabling partnerships for growth, was enacted by the House of Representatives on a vote of 143-4 on January 5, the last day of the 2019-2020 legislative session. The final bill reflects compromise language negotiated by a six-member conference committee that worked to reconcile the differences between the initial House and Senate versions of the bill.

In addition to providing \$20 million to help restaurants struggling financially during the COVID-19 global pandemic, House Bill 5250 makes additional funding available for small business grants and loans targeting women and minority-owned businesses. The bill also implements a 15% cap on the fees third party delivery services can charge restaurants with less than 25 locations, which will remain in effect for the duration of the declared COVID-19 state of emergency.

Language mirroring Gov. Charlie Baker’s Housing Choice proposal is also included in the economic development bill, which authorizes cities and towns to approve certain zoning changes with a simple majority vote, rather than requiring a two-thirds vote. Smola said lowering the threshold

would promote additional development throughout the commonwealth to help address the state’s housing shortage.

The legislation also contains funding for various initiatives that promote community development and housing production. For example, the bill provides \$40 million for a program to provide assistance to projects that will improve, rehabilitate or redevelop blighted, abandoned, vacant or underutilized properties. House Bill 5250 also provides \$10 million in financial assistance to accelerate and support the creation and preservation of sustainable and climate resilient affordable multi-family housing. Additionally, the bill allocates \$102.3 million to support various local economic development projects across the state.

A House-backed proposal to legalize sports betting in Massachusetts, which was projected to generate between \$25 and \$35 million in new revenues, was dropped from the final bill. Smola said he anticipates multiple sports betting proposals to be filed for consideration during the 2021-2022 legislative session.

The economic development bond bill also includes language:

Expanding the state’s low-income housing tax credit;

Allowing tenants to seal no-fault evictions records;

Prohibiting the naming of a minor as a defendant in an eviction claim;

Requiring one member of a housing authority in a town to be

a tenant member appointed by the board of selectmen;

Establishing a bill of rights for student loan borrowers, regulating student loan servicers, and creating a student loan ombudsman;

Allocating \$14 million in tourism grants for businesses and regional tourism councils;

Permitting the establishment of tourism marketing districts;

Providing grants for vocational schools to purchase equipment and make renovations;

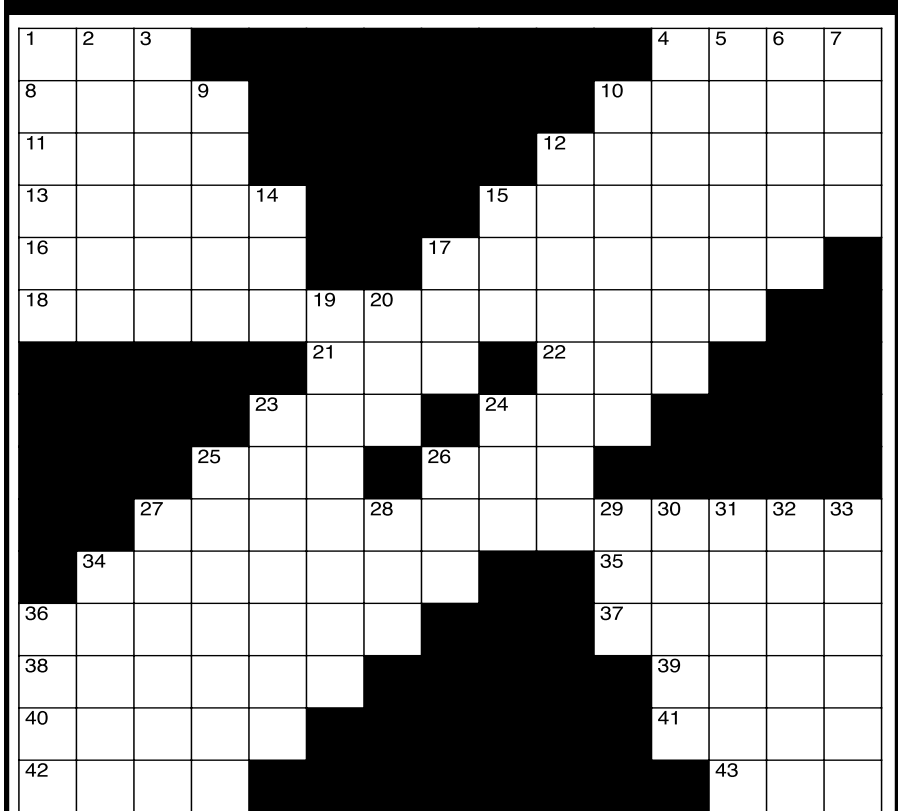
Promoting the creation of family-friendly, multi-unit housing within a half-mile of MBTA stations;

Establishing a special legislative commission to study journalism in underserved communities in the commonwealth;

Establishing a special legislative commission to examine and make recommendations on addressing the recovery of the cultural and creative sector as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19 and the effects of the governor’s declaration of a state of emergency; and

Establishing a special commission to conduct a study relative to the impact of automation, artificial intelligence, global trade, access to new forms of date and the internet on the workforce, businesses and the economy.

The economic development bond bill is now before Baker for his review. For additional information please contact Smola at Todd. Smola@mahouse.gov or 617-722-2100.



- CLUES ACROSS**

1. Adequate yearly progress (abbr.)

4. Silicon Valley's specialty

8. Gather a harvest

10. Famed mathematician

11. No (slang)

12. Students use one

13. Type of molecule

15. Play make-believe

16. Large barrel-like containers

17. Touching

18. Treats allergies

21. Calendar month

22. Single

23. Cease to live
24. Brew

25. What ghosts say

26. Geological time

27. Focus

34. Discomfort

35. A citizen of Iran

36. Trip

37. Imitate

38. Makes happy

39. Double-reed instrument

40. Body parts

41. Transgressions

42. One-time emperor of Russia

43. Time zone
- CLUES DOWN**

1. Used in treating bruises

2. One who cultivates a small estate

3. One who supports the Pope

4. Annuity

5. Geological period

6. Grab onto tightly

7. Kept

9. Chinese city

10. The most direct route

12. Type of tooth

14. ___ kosh, near Lake Winnebago

15. Popular veggie

17. Supervises interstate commerce

19. Foolish behaviors

20. Witness

23. Gives

24. Expression of creative skill

25. A way to prop up

26. Midway between northeast and east

27. Winter melon

28. Supernatural power

29. Target

30. Threes

31. A type of poetic verse

32. They make some people cry

33. Kindest

34. Forman and Ventimiglia are two

36. A way to liquefy

AP SCORES from page 1

And the school’s AP teachers couldn’t be more proud.

“Students had to take the exam online and in the middle of a pandemic,” said English teacher Amber Boucher, who teaches AP literature. “They had zero experience with the online format, and we did a lot of talking through and communicating, all remotely, before the exam regarding just how to register, get on the platform and what to do if they lost internet or got ejected from the exam while taking it.”

She said the AP literature exam was the first exam the students had to take, so it helped students navigate other AP exams.

“I’m exceptionally proud of all of my students,” she said of her 12 students that took the exam. “All of them participated in the exam. All of them

worked through the uncertainty and tectonic shift the pandemic threw at us. They never gave up and they never gave in. I’ve always been proud of being a Ware teacher; this has reminded me of just how much and why.”

Math teacher Dan Orszulak, who had 26 students take the AP math test, and put their good scores down to several factors.

“First and foremost we have excellent students who work hard,” he said. “I also think we scored so well because our kids kept working past the March remote learning; it’s a credit to our kids for persevering, something I’m really proud of.”

He said these scores were the highest his students have had since 2016, when students in AP statistics scored 100%.

Nine students also took the AP biology test and had excellent scores, said science teacher Heather Orszulak.

Holyoke Community College fall dean’s list

HOLYOKE – Each semester Holyoke Community College recognizes superior scholarship through its dean’s list. A student is placed on the dean’s list if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below have earned dean’s list honors for the fall 2020 semester.

Brandie Heyes, of Gilbertville.

Briana Marie Anair, Melannie L. Barnes, Maxmillian Syllas Brown, Juliet Jeanne Chou, Kianna Rose Dumas, Helen M. Hayes, Courtney McCormick, Olivia G. McGrail, Stephen O’Brien, Morgan Marie Orszulak, Brandon David Joseph Sawabi and Morgan Souza, all of Ware.

Ashley Mary Chevette, Kirsten Desjardins and Tera Nicolene Harutunian, all of Warren.

The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to ekennedy@turley.com, or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 80 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.

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Pathfinder alum gifts vehicle for hands-on learning

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – Thanks to Ford of Northampton’s donation of a 2010 Ford Focus, Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical School’s Automotive Technology Department now has a new vehicle for its students to use as a learning tool.

Scott Sarat, owner of Ford of Northampton, said this initiative came from a phone conversation between himself and Pathfinder’s ATD Head Paul Bouthiller, who asked if there was a vehicle the students in the program could use for practical learning.

On Jan. 8, the 2010 Ford Focus was delivered to Pathfinder.

Sarat said he chose this specific vehicle because the model was more up to date than the previous one and had low mileage. He also said he is happy to lend a hand to the automotive department.

“The demand for service repair technicians in the auto industry is certainly high and historically has tended to go down,” said Sarat.

“It’s hard to find qualified technicians and if we can help with the job that Pathfinder does, it’s certainly something



Courtesy photo
Thanks to the generosity of Ford of Northampton, Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical School has received a 2010 Ford Focus. Pictured with the vehicle are Automotive Technology Department Head is Paul Bouthiller (left) and Pathfinder alumni and Ford of Northampton employee Madigan Leitl (right).

that I, as a local car dealer and repair shop, should get behind.”

Bouthiller said he insisted on getting the students a new

vehicle to work on, to give them a more up-to-date experience in auto repair. Their previous vehicle to work on was a 2007 Chevy Malibu.

“We don’t just shop vehicles, we need some for the younger students [to work on],” said Bouthiller.

“To keep them up to date

with some of the [newer] motor vehicles [parts], such as higher-pressure monitors and things like that, we needed a newer car.”

He also said in the class, students work on cars for “customers” and need a vehicle that isn’t registered to work on to complete curriculum assignments such as working on a head gasket.

Other staff, such as Pathfinder’s Vocational Director Ryan Rege, were also happy to receive the news of this donation.

“We are thrilled to have such a great relationship with Ford of Northampton,” said Rege.

“This generous donation will be an invaluable training tool for our students. It will help them develop their skills and knowledge on their pathway to successful careers in the automotive industry.”

In the future, should the ATD need another motor vehicle, Sarat said he would be happy to provide one.

“I’m always willing to work with anybody that reaches out to me,” said Sarat.

“Every situation stands on it’s own, but yes [I am willing to do so].”

Eighteen Ware students receive state tuition scholarships

WARE – Eighteen students at Ware Junior Senior High School were awarded a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, which is a merit-based program that provides a credit toward tuition for up to eight semesters of undergraduate education at a Massachusetts state college or university. For this scholarship, merit is based on student scores on the 10th-grade Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System test.

Ware Junior Senior High School is proud to announce this year’s recipients are Norah Ayers, Amelia Bonnayer, Vincent Chiaravalle, Seraya Dauksewich, Sydney DiMarzio, Jacqueline Dugay, Luke Harmon, Hailey Hernandez, Caitlin Hess, Lilly Kibbe, Myles McGrail, Sean Moriarty, Lexie Orszulak, Aiden Patrissi, Sadie Poole, Shawn Santiago, John Soltys and Olivia Vadnaiz.

The purpose of the award is to reward and inspire student achievement; help attract more high-performing students to Massachusetts public higher education; and provide families of college-bound students with financial assistance.

Who Is Eligible?

To be eligible for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, a student has to score in the advanced category on either the mathematics or the English Language Arts section of the grade 10 MCAS test and score in the proficient or advanced category on the second subject (Mathematics or English Language Arts).

They must also have a combined MCAS score on these assessments that ranks in the top 25% in their school district, and score in the advanced category on one of three high school state assessment tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics, or STE (biology, chemistry, introductory physics or technology/engineering)

They must also score in the proficient or advanced category on the remaining two high school state assessment tests and have a combined MCAS score on these assessments that ranks in the top 25% in their school district.

Annual Town Election set for April 12, nomination papers available

WARE – Nomination papers will be available for those individuals who wish to obtain them for the following positions that will appear on the ballot for the above-mentioned Annual Town Election, which will be held on Monday, April 12.

The seats open are two, three-year terms for selectman; one three-year term for moderator; two three-year School Committee terms; one, three-year term on the Board of Assessors; one, three-year term on the Board

of Health; one, three-year term as Park Commissioner; one, one-year unexpired term as Park Commissioner; one, three-year term as Cemetery Commissioner; one, five-year set on the Planning Board; and one, five-year term on the Ware Housing Committee.

The last date to obtain and file nomination papers with the Board of Registrars is Monday, Feb. 22., at 5 p.m.

The last date to file nomination papers with the Town Clerk will be Monday March 8, at 5

p.m.

The last date to object to or withdraw nomination papers will be Wednesday March 10, at 5 p.m.

Any resident interested in running for any of the town offices will appear on the ballot should please contact the Town Clerk Nancy J. Talbot to make arrangements on obtaining nomination papers by calling 413-967-9648, ext. 177, Monday through Friday between the business hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Due to COVID-

19, the Town Hall currently remains closed to the public.

The current office holders will be notified that their terms are ending. They are: Selectmen, Alan Whitney and Keith Kruckas; moderator, Kathleen Coulombe; School Committee, Michael C. Foran and Julie A. Slattery; Board of Assessors, Devin M. Peterson; Board of Health, Michael F. Juda; Park Commissioner, Kimberly Swartz; Park Commissioner, John E. Carroll; Cemetery Commissioner, Craig

R. Simmons; Planning Board, Richard A. Starodoj; and Ware Housing Authority, Jonathan R. Hogan.

The last date to register to vote will be Tuesday, March 23. A voter registration will take place by appointment on March 23 until 8 p.m.; however anyone who is not a registered voter can do so by registering to vote online at www.ma.gov or by mail-in voter registration. Forms for mail-in voter registration can be found at the U S Post Office on West Street.

Hardwick Town Election set for April 12

HARDWICK – The Annual Town Election will held on Monday, April 12. The last day to obtain and submit nomination papers to the Board of Registrars for certification by Tuesday, Feb. 23, by 5 p.m.

The last day to file nomination papers with Town Clerk is on Monday, March 8, by 5 p.m. The last day to object or withdraw nomination papers is Wednesday, March 10, by 5 p.m. The last day to register to vote in the Annual Town Election, is on Tuesday, March 23, 8 p.m.

Voter registration will take place in the Myron E. Richardson Building at 307 Main St., Gilbertville on Tuesday, March 23, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. This is the last day and hour to register voters who wish to vote at the Annual Town Election. Mail-in voter registrations will be accepted if postmarked no later than the March 23 deadline.

DEMO from page 1

ny is concerned once it starts heavy roadwork in front of the building, it may collapse due to the vibrations, and they want it taken care of before that work begins. The paving is slated to begin in the spring, but it won’t if the building remains untouched.

“This kicks it forward,” said Opalinski, of the process to bring the building down.

Voters will be asked a second time at an upcoming Special Town Meeting to have the town demolish the building, which is thought to cost about \$400,000 or higher as it is very close to the street and cannot be demolished from the rear. The street will have to be closed when the building comes down. Voters rejected paying for the demolition at a Special Town Meeting last summer.

Opalinski asked Building Inspector Anna Marques if there was any chance the owners of 114 Main St. and 92-104 Main St. could collaborate to bring both buildings down. She said while it seemed they might work together, that process seems to have fizzled out.

The building at 92-104 Main St. is in poor condition as well and Marques has been talking to the owner, Duc Ha of Newton. An inspection of the building last August by town officials found it to be unsecured and to have a number of safety issues.

Parker Street, lighting

The two buildings on Parker Street, a home and a garage, will be demolished and a parking lot extended, providing more downtown parking that is always in

demand. Money to blacktop the parking lot will have to come from another source.

Just as a public hearing was held to determine that 114 Main St. was an unsafe building and must come down, there will also have to be a public hearing to determine that the Parker Street buildings should come down, according to Building Inspector Anna Marques. Selectmen hold the hearing and she expects the process will take about eight weeks.

The additional lighting on North, Pleasant and Bank streets, of both flood and street lights, will also provide better sight and security as people come downtown to dine and shop. It is hoped the additional lights will also encourage more people to feel safer using the town’s Pleasant Street parking lot at night.

she is a teacher in the Ware district, and her child attends Ware schools. Both she and her daughter tested positive for COVID-19 about six weeks ago, but none of her students or other teachers caught it, she said. “In the younger grades its so important for young students to be in school,” as she acknowledged it is a multi-tiered issue in deciding when to go fully remote.

She also said she was concerned if school went fully remote it would put more pressure on parents who would have to find additional daycare for their children. She said many parents put together a patchwork quilt of after school care for their children as it, using herself as an example, as she uses three different providers to care for her daughter on learning remotely days.

“It think we should hold the line and not change anything right now,” Sawabi said.

“I want to clarify that this is a very tear-you-apart decision to have to make for a large community of people,” said School Committee member Julie Slattery. “It’s heartbreaking to be on both sides of this and I feel for each side, and to not know at any one time what the right decision is.”

Slattery also asked if the School Committee would get guidance from the state or some other entity about what to do, possibly with a formula that could be used, but Desjardins and DiLeo said the School Committee would have to make the decision for Ware schools.

The committee also put off making a decision on winter sports until it meets on Jan. 13.

NOTICE

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REMOTE from page 1

Those numbers showed Ware to have a positivity rate of 5.09%, and the rate per 100,000 people to be 30.2. The numbers released on Jan. 8 weren’t available for the School Committee, but they show the town’s positivity rate to be 7.34%, and the rate per 100,000 people to be 41.5. The state considers positivity rates of 5% or above and rates of 25 per 100,000 people to be considered a higher risk.

“We’re doing a great job with implementing our protocols for safety – masks, washing our hands, cleaning our surfaces and social distancing,” said School Superintendent Dr. Marlene DiLeo. “In-school spread has been minimal, but the community spread is what keeps pushing into us.” She said the district had three positive cases since the Christmas break and 23 staff and students quarantined.

“We’re certainly stretched a little with staffing on certain days,” she said. “Finding substitutes is not always an easy job, which means shifting of staff for coverage.”

DiLeo stressed that one of the most difficult parts of COVID-19 has been keeping staff in the building, and there are few substitute teachers available.

There were almost 100 people on the Zoom meeting, including parents, staff and students, and the majority seemed to want the schools to have in-person learning.

“District staffing should not impact our students,” said one parent in the chat portion of the meeting.

“That’s true, but you can’t make staff appear out of thin air,” said School Committee Chairman Christopher Desjardins after reading her comment aloud.

School Committee member Aaron Sawabi made a presentation on the CDC’s criteria for school districts, and asked why teachers couldn’t choose to not be in the schools if students and their families can choose whether to have children in school or at home. “Let the chips fall where they may,” he said. “It would have a logistical impact, but that’s our problem.” He said it would be up to the School Committee and school administration, working with the town, to figure out how that could be implemented.

He went over the CDC’s risk-levels for considering having remote-only learning, emphasizing the decision to go remote should not be based simply on the risk color determined by the state.

He also pointed to issues of mental health that have cropped up among students across the country as one reason to keep the schools open for as long as possible. He said students only attend school two days a week for four hours each day, and it would be better for them if they were in school more hours a day. He was reminded that elementary and middle school students go for two full school days if they are in the hybrid program, while high school students in the hybrid model go two four-hour days and continue their studies online when they get home.

Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School teacher Allison Biron said

she is a teacher in the Ware district, and her child attends Ware schools. Both she and her daughter tested positive for COVID-19 about six weeks ago, but none of her students or other teachers caught it, she said. “In the younger grades its so important for young students to be in school,” as she acknowledged it is a multi-tiered issue in deciding when to go fully remote.

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Eagle Hill School

242 Old Petersham Road, Hardwick 01037 • 413-477-6000

HELP WANTED

OVERNIGHT AWAKE STAFF MEMBER

Eagle Hill School, a college-prep board school specializing in educating bright children with specific learning disabilities, seeks an Overnight Awake Staff Member to join our residential team. This part-time position requires a person to be dependable, caring, and responsible for assisting with assisting with program areas, the overnight safety of 200 boarding students and all buildings on a 200 acre campus. Hours: Friday-Sat. 7pm-3am. Pay: Hourly (commensurate with experience). Start immediately.

WEEKEND COUNSELOR

For the academic year running September – June, and summer program needs in July:
Hours: Friday: 3pm-11pm, Saturday: 9am-11pm, Sunday: 9am-5pm, Optional: Sunday 5pm – 8pm

A Weekend Counselor is responsible for enhancing the quality of life in the dorms as part of the Eagle Hill Student Life program. This includes fostering a cooperative and considerate residential learning community for all students. The position carries a wide range of duties, responsibilities and requires a high level of commitment of both time and effort. A Weekend Counselor plays a central role in building a residential community for the students

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for supporting the student body in their effort to generalize daily living skills.
- Responsible for the smooth operation of the dorm floor, Student Life program, safety and productivity for 15-20 students.
- To serve as a role model by demonstrating responsible behavior, integrity and good judgment.
- Collaborating with faculty serving a Student Life shift, to maintain an organized and consistent dorm floor.
- Enforce rules and ensure adherence to the Student Code of Conduct and dorm floor expectations.
- To listen and provide an empathetic ear and sound judgment by helping students come to their own conclusions about how to address problems.
- To take part in planning and supervising both on and off campus activity programming for students.
- To collaborate information and activities with weekday dorm counselors.
- To assume other responsibilities as assigned by the Director of Weekend Services.

Specific duties:

- Be available to reside overnight in the residence halls.
- To provide active leadership in a variety of activities throughout the Student Life program.
- As an information resource, a weekend counselor is expected to help students deal with conflicts by adopting impartial solutions to issues that arise. When necessary, weekend counselors will collaborate with Director of Weekend Services, Student Life administrators, and/or a student’s advisor.
- Attend appropriate training sessions when they arise.
- To complete all necessary reports and records needed for Eagle Hill School.
- Specifically, the entering of log notes pertaining to contributions to the community or interactions with students, both positive and negative.

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Did my wife get a 'Notch Baby' benefit increase?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I was born in May of 1930, and my wife was born in April 1931. My wife claims she received an increase in her Social Security benefit due to the “Notch Baby” provision. Is she correct about this? *Signed: Inquisitive husband*

Dear Inquisitive: Allow me to clarify for you what your wife is referring to, and you can use your own judgement on how to present the information to her.

So-called “notch babies” are those Social Security recipients who were born between the years 1917 and 1921. Folks born in those years were affected by a Social Security issue which had to do with how Cost of Living Adjustments were computed.

Here’s what happened: In 1972, when the Social Security Administration switched to automatic COLA increases based on the Consumer Price Index, they made an error in the automatic COLA computation formula, which wasn’t discovered for several years. During those several years they awarded COLA increases using the incorrect formula which paid COLA at a higher level than appropriate.

After discovering the error, and in an attempt to fix the issue, in the mid-1970s, Congress decided that those born before 1917 would be allowed to stay on the incorrect (more generous) formula, but COLA for those born after 1917 would use a corrected formula.

However, that didn’t sit well with Social Security beneficiaries born after 1917 because they were receiving less COLA than their counterparts born before 1917. So, in an attempt to mollify those Social Security beneficiaries born after 1917, Congress created a special “notch” formula for those born between 1917 and 1921. And those who were born between those dates were called “notch babies.”

The new “notch baby” formula was not quite as generous as the incorrect formula being enjoyed by those born before 1917, but yet a bit more generous than the corrected COLA formula, which applied to anyone born after 1921 (and still exists today). Thus, “notch babies” do enjoy a slightly better COLA formula than other Social Security beneficiaries born after 1921.

Over the years, various attempts have been made to extend the notch baby end-year definition from 1921 to, for example, those born before 1927. And even as recently as 2019, a Congressional bill called the “Notch Fairness Act” attempted to provide restitution by extending the end date of the “notch” to 1926. But none of those attempts in Congress have ever succeeded in changing the definition of “notch babies” beyond the original 1970s Congressional definition to apply only to those born between 1917 and 1921. So, anyone born after 1921, including your wife, has COLA computed using the corrected formula, not the “notch baby” formula.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Fun finding flowers

One might say I have a soft spot for heirloom flowers. Learning about these antiques as a twenty-something when I started working at Old Sturbridge Village likely set the stage for what I dub a long-term love affair. Just today I placed orders for seeds of my favorites, among the many are a number of foxglove and pink species. Read on to learn about the cream of the crop of cottage garden favorites.

There has always been a secretive side to foxgloves, due in part to an unusual name and the potent medicine that is obtained from the plant. Legend has it that foxglove was derived from “folk’s glove”, folks referring to the elves and fairies of country lore. Another legend tells that the fox needed magical gloves to steal a chicken or two. A less fanciful explanation traces glove to gleow in Old English; a gleow was an ancient musical instrument made of bells suspended from a curved frame. I think the description fits the look pretty accurately! The following species I grow with success; please use caution when planting around children due to poisonous properties.

Native to Western Europe, the common foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) has had a place in North American gardens since its introduction during colonial times. Tall purple spikes grace rise from basal foliage and make a strong statement in the June garden in sun or part shade, fertile ground. Although biennial, this species will self-seed prolifically. Try ‘alba’ for a all white strain.

There are other, more subtle species of foxglove worthy of a home in your garden. One of my top picks is the Rusty Foxglove (*Digitalis ferruginea*). Small flowers the color of liquid gold bloom up three to six-feet stems late in the summer. Although touted as being a biennial this species has happily returned for several years in my part shade, moisture retentive

location. The yellow foxglove (*D. grandiflora*) is a reliable perennial, shorter than most, only 24 to 30 inches tall and blooming a soft yellow in early June. This species also prefers part shade and adequate moisture. The Grecian foxglove (*D. lanata*), a true biennial, has grayish flowers, blooming in July up three-foot stems. The straw foxglove (*D. lutea*) begins relatively short in stature but after three or four years can get quite tall at four feet. Its creamy flowers are a mere ¾ inches and are quite unusual, but lovely, and return year after year.

Now on to the pinks. Everyone knows what a florist carnation smells like, flowery with a hint of cloves. Imagine it, but reduce the scale of the flower size and loosen the head a bit and you will be on to Sweet William, (*Dianthus barbatus*). Prized by florists for its clustered, richly scented three-inch flower heads, seen in white, magenta, salmon and pretty bicolors. Technically a biennial, Sweet William will occasionally return for a third or fourth year of bloom but will likely be spindly at best.

Dianthus gratianopolitanus is a mouthful for a plant better known as Cheddar Pink. Settle for a few quarter-sized fragrant pink blooms in year one, but by mid-June of the second year of the plant, it will be at least a foot to 15 inches wide by eight inches tall with flowers too numerous to count. Each individual floret is composed of five flat petals that get a bit deeper in tone near the center and tatter somewhat at the edge. Curly stamens popping up in the middle add to the interest.

Pheasant-Eye or Cottage Pink, (*Dianthus plumarius*), is less behaved than its cousin. The silver foliage has a tendency bend and grow in funny, rambling angles, making it a great candidate for draping over the edge of a raised border or rock wall. The flowers are fragrant still, but less prolific than those of Cheddar



Pink. Similar in appearance too, except that they have an even more pronounced, dark eye against white, light pink and deep pink petals-giving it the name Pheasant-Eye!

The last pretty pink I’ll mention today is Fringed or Superb Pink (*Dianthus superbus*). It differs from Clove and Pheasant Eye in that its foliage is green and less spiky, more grass-like. And while the others top off under a foot, Fringed Pink grows two feet tall or taller. Light pink or purple flowers are deeply fringed, giving them a very delicate appearance that is best admired (and sniffed!) up close.

Many of these *Dianthus* and *Digitalis* species are available by seed through JL Hudson, Seedsman (www.jlHUDSONseeds.net) and Richters (www.richters.com). Plants are easy to grow, best started indoors in late February. Pinks prefer to sprout off-heat, but foxgloves benefit from heating cables. Light will aid in germination for both types; simply press the seed into the soil surface and do not cover.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Sturbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

ON THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

GUEST COLUMN

So you want to hike in Winter?

By Julie Midura

The “NH 48” is a list of New Hampshire’s tallest peaks which meet or exceed 4,000 feet of elevation. In 1957, a group of outdoor enthusiasts decided to create a club which would keep track of and recognize every hiker who climbed all 48 mountains. Once a hiker finishes hiking all 48 peaks, he or she may apply to become a member of the White Mountain 4,000 Footer Club. My husband Tom and I completed the list in September 2018. Since its inception, approximately 15,200 hikers have become members of the Club.

However, there is a separate winter award given to those who complete all 48 of the 4,000-footers during official winter. Due to the inherent risks and potential dangers that exist while hiking in the mountain region that has a reputation for having the worst weather in the world, only 843 hikers have been recognized as having completed the list in winter. While Tom and I initially decided that only those who suffer with some form of insanity would attempt such a feat, we have since joined the ranks of those who think climbing a 4,000-foot mountain in winter would be “fun.”

So with the winter season upon us, we headed to New Hampshire last week for our second attempt to reach the summit of Mt. Cabot. In February 2018, we turned back in defeat just three tenths of a mile from the summit due to thigh high snowdrifts, wind chills in the negative 30s, and early signs of frostbite. It would have been our 10th Winter 4K at the time... but the mountain clearly had other plans.

The mountains have taught us many lessons in the years since that day, and with each ascent – whether successful or not – we continue to learn. Our successes and failures have helped us become better equipped and more prepared for whatever the mountain throws at us. If you hike during winter, whether to the summit of a mountain or on a hike in the valley, you may appreciate these hard-earned lessons:

1. Always check the weather before you venture outdoors, but be prepared for the unexpected. More often than not, the actual weather that we encountered is not what was forecasted.
2. Set a cutoff limit regarding temps. We’ve decided that we won’t hike when the wind chill temperature at the summit is below negative 15 degrees. Know your personal comfort level.
3. Winter legs are earned... not given. It takes several hikes before your legs become conditioned for the rigors of hiking in snowshoes, crampons, and micro-spikes. Lower your expectations regarding the mileage you will be able to complete on your first few hikes of the season.



Julie and Tom heading up Mt. Cabot, which they were able to summit on their second attempt.

4. Carrying extra gear in winter is worth the sense of security in knowing that we could survive an unexpected night on the mountain if we had to. Don’t be so self assured to think, “That will NEVER happen to me.” It can. (Tom never imagined he’d break his fibula coming off of Bondcliff... until he did.)

5. Use nalgene bottles for your water in winter rather than hydration bladders, which tend to freeze solid in cold temps. Place them in either an insulated holder or in a thick wool sock. Fill the bottles with hot water so they don’t freeze as quickly. Place them upside down in your pack, since ice forms from the top down. Pro-tip: If your clumsy –as I am – place a silicone straw in the bottle to sip from so that you don’t spill water all over yourself when you lift the bottle to your mouth. (NOT that that has ever happened to me!).

6. ALWAYS carry your phone. Either place it in a pocket close to your body, or place a foot warmer on it to prevent the battery from dying.

7. Be prepared to turn back if the weather turns bad. No mountain is worth risking your health or life for.

If you hike in winter, I highly recommend the book, “The Last Traverse” by Ty Gagne. It’s a true story of two hikers who attempted a traverse of Franconia Ridge in New Hampshire in winter when a storm blew in. We’ve already hiked that ridge in winter, but reading that book has compelled us to add several additional pieces of emergency gear to our winter arsenal.

In addition to the 10 essentials that we

carry year round, in winter we carry a lightweight emergency tarp, camp stove, a neoprene face mask, extra hat, extra mittens, extra socks, hand/foot and body warmers, a z-rest sleep pad cut in half, ski goggles, a battery pack to recharge our phones, spare batteries for our headlamp, and an emergency locator beacon.

Accidents happen, but I don’t want a poor decision on my part to be the reason that members of a search and rescue party risk their own lives. What we do is inherently risky. It’s up to us to minimize those risks by being prepared. Especially in winter – when a mistake can make the difference between life and death – it’s crucial to make wise choices and trust your instincts.

Our second winter attempt of Mt. Cabot was a successful one this time. Unlike the sunny skies that the weather forecast predicted, we hiked in a snow globe all day, and the summit temps were in the single digits. The added bonus was that we had to smack our feet against rocks 3,685 times – or thereabouts – in order to remove the baseball sized ice clumps that continuously formed on the bottom of our micro-spikes due to all of the water beneath the fresh coating of snow.

But we made it to the summit, reaching our 35th mountain on the list during winter.

We hope to complete the remaining 4Ks by the end of the season. I am approaching the final 13 with slight trepidation. Those that remain are the “big ones.” They either require a lengthy road walk, are incredibly steep, or are above tree line and exposed to the elements for a prolonged period of time.

WARE RIVER NEWS



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The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

2021Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

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DEAN’S LIST

Chelsea Flamand makes dean’s list

BIDDEFORD AND PORTLAND, MAINE – Chelsea Flamand, of Ware, Massachusetts, has been named to the dean’s list for the 2020 fall semester at the University of New England. Dean’s list students have attained a grade point average of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester.

The University of New England is Maine’s largest private university, featuring two campuses in Maine, a campus in Tangier, Morocco, and an array of innovative offerings online. Our hands-on, experiential approach empowers students to join the next generation of leaders in their chosen fields. The university is home to Maine’s only medical and dental colleges, a variety of other inter-professionally aligned health care programs, and nationally recognized degree paths in the marine sciences, the natural and social sciences, business, the humanities and the arts.

Baystate Health to hold free ‘Heart & Vascular Health’ lecture series

SPRINGFIELD – Baystate Health will hold its popular free Heart & Vascular Health Lecture Series during the month of February, beginning on Feb. 7 with Dr. Aaron Kugelmass, vice president and medical director, Heart & Vascular Services and chief of cardiology for Baystate Health.

His session, “The COVID Heart: Effects of COVID-19 on the Heart, What We Know,” will provide a look at what doctors have learned about COVID-19’s adverse effects on the heart and treatments to offset illness.

The Heart & Vascular Health Lecture Series, presented by the Baystate Heart & Vascular Program as part of American Heart Month, will focus on presentations designed by Baystate Health physicians to inform those participating on the latest advances in heart and vascular care and how they can maintain or improve their heart and vascular health.

All lectures this year will be held from 12 to 1 p.m. and will be virtual due to the pandemic and the limit placed on numbers of people who can gather indoors.

The free lectures continue of Feb. 14 with preventive cardiologist Dr. Quinn Pack, of Baystate Cardiology in Springfield, and Patrick Schilling,

ACSM-RCEP, chief exercise physiologist, of Baystate’s Heart & Vascular Program, who will present “Cardiac Risk Factors and Wellness in the Era of COVID-19.” They will discuss how changes in behavior have impacted cardiac risk factors during the pandemic and offer tips on what can be done to keep your heart healthy and strong despite the challenging times.

Baystate cardiologist Dr. Zachry Zichittella, who practices at Baystate Cardiology in Palmer, will present “Am I Having A Heart Attack?” on Feb. 21. His presentation will focus on what a heart attack is, the different symptoms associated with a heart attack, and the importance of taking action quickly.

The series will conclude on Feb. 28 with “The Heart’s Electrical System and Latest Treatments” presented by Dr. Fadi Chalhoub, of Baystate Cardiology in Springfield, Greenfield and Northampton. He will review the role of the heart’s electrical system, and discuss the latest technology available to treat dysrhythmias, including leadless pacemakers.

Registration is required for each session by visiting baystatehealth.org/heart.

APTS from page 1

Starodj also said the town expects the building to be insured and any insurance payment would have to go toward demolition or renovation first in the event of a fire or other calamity. He explained the town must find a way to stop owners from walking away from decrepit or fire-damaged buildings, as the town has several problem buildings. After a recent multi-family building fire on Parker Street it was found the building was uninsured, although the owner has told the town he plans to renovate it. The town also has several buildings on Main Street in very poor condition, one of which has been ordered demolished.

“We’re not picking on you,” Starodj said. “The town needs to look at some way to prevent this from happening in the future.”

The building is within the Millyard Historical District, and Palladino plans to keep the building’s brick facade, but new windows will be installed, he told the board. He will also add exterior lighting.

The building would have four units on the bottom and four on the top, each with a small kitchenette and a private bathroom. The

plan also calls for building a second stairway from the second floor and a separate exit access and exit at Church Street, which provides the second floor with a necessary second means of exiting the floor and building.

Palladino plans to put in a full sprinkler system for fire suppression throughout the building. The building is cojoined to 29 East Main St., but is separated by a masonry firewall running from the basement to the roof.

The trash will be housed inside the building in a utility room, and will then be taken by the owner to another property he owns that has a dumpster.

Palladino will attend the Jan. 21 Planning Board meeting to let them know the progress on finding longterm parking spots for his building.

Crystal Springs

Yassar Fares, the owner of Crystal Springs Dairy Bar at 164 West St., received approval from the Planning Board to offer customers permanent outside seating in front of the popular eaterie.

“Last summer when we started outside dining, our customers they loved it and asked us to keep it,”

he said. While COVID-19 safety restrictions prevented fewer patrons inside restaurants, eateries could open up outside dining if the wanted to, and Crystal Springs did so.

“I think it’s a great idea,” said Starodj.

There will be several patio tables and umbrellas immediately in front of the restaurant along with planters, and boards put behind the planters to keep them in place should they be struck.

The board also suggested he improve access for the handicapped at the same time.

Downtown facades

Planning and Community Development Director Rebekah Cornell told the board she was planning to take streetscape designs to the UMass Amherst Design Center in Springfield and see if students could design an overall look for Main Street buildings.

“We don’t necessarily want to keep it all the same,” Cornell said in phone interview Tuesday. “Ware has a history of civic pride and pride in their history.”

It is possible there could be money for facade work through the CDBG block funds.

Pathfinder student finds his career choice while seeing life through a lens

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – What started off as a hobby for Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School junior Michael Gilbert has turned into a potential lifelong career.

Even before he earns his high school diploma, Gilbert, of Belchertown, is already a professional photographer and filmmaker.

While attending Pathfinder to study advanced manufacturing, Gilbert said his passion for film grew during his freshman year. Already into making videos with his friends, the arts of photography and videography were something Gilbert gravitated to organically. This hobby of his elevated to something more serious after Michael’s parents, Tina and Paul Gilbert, bought him his first professional quality camera.

During August of 2019, Gilbert decided to search for people to work with and discovered the power lifting company Gorilla Headquarters in Holyoke. After working closely with them and producing photo and video content for the company, Gilbert expanded his services to other companies, such as F45 Training in Hadley,

ASP Athletic Strength Training in Ashville and more.

Gilbert also produced videos for Pathfinder and has been hired by others to film business promos and take portraits.

Always possessed with the skill of being a good talker, Gilbert said he’s been able to leverage his communication and interpersonal skills to help promote his business. The work he produces also speaks volumes.

“Once you do a few videos for a bunch of companies, your name gets out there and people start reaching out,” said Gilbert.

“It’s pretty cool seeing all of the feedback and getting to know all these businesses I would have never know. I’m very fortunate to have this talent shared with the rest of Massachusetts and hopefully the rest of the world someday.”

In addition to his business endeavors, Gilbert also was recently selected by MassDOT as the Junior/Senior category grand prize recipient of the Safe Streets Smart Trips High School Video Contest. Having only one week to write a script, Gilbert produced a one-minute video titled “The Call Can Wait,” with classmates/actors Austin Tocci, Nicholas Hein and

Kevin Aldrich.

After the Nov. 23 announcement that he had won, Gilbert said he was super excited and it was “an unreal moment” that made producing the video worth the effort.

Others have also expressed great joy in Gilbert’s accomplishment, such such as Pathfinder’s Assistant Principal, Carrie Auffrey.

“We are so incredibly proud of these young men,” said Auffrey. “Their skills working together as a team allowed this production to come together in a matter of days. Michael Gilbert, the mastermind, director and filmmaker of this project, is exceptionally talented with a camera in his hands and we are thrilled that his work is already being recognized and rewarded. We can’t wait to see what the future holds for him.”

Going further, Gilbert plans to continue his business and expand his growing list of clients.

“There’s so much out there in the space I can do,” said Gilbert. “There’s so much I can do in this industry. It’s all about what happens next.”

To view Gilbert’s work, visit therealmichaelgilbert.com, go to his Instagram page (@therealmichaelgilbert) and his YouTube channel (Michael Gilbert). All accounts are associated with his production company, Gilbert Productions.



Michael Gilbert



LASK from page 1

including an anonymous donation of \$1,000 for the dance scholarship. Lask said since she appeared on television news, people have continued to reach out to her asking how they can help also, even though the gift drive has passed. These people have been sending donations to help build up the scholarship fund, which has taken a hit during the pandemic, as Lask was unable to fundraise like she normally does with a recital.

“It’s just bringing this full circle,” Lask said of the community support. She said for many students, “their 45-minute class is their only outlet,” and now they can continue to express themselves through dance.

For information about how to donate to the “Chance2dance Scholarship” and give a child the opportunity to dance, people may contact Arielle Lask at arielle@limelight-dancecenter.com.

Turley Publications Courtesy Photo
Arielle Lask gathered \$4,000 to make Christmas bright for 20 families. Here she is seen with one of her students,



Julie on one of the ledges. Just 13 4K mountains left to conquer this winter!

HIKE from page 4

Mt. Washington, the highest mountain in New England, is one that we still need to climb. “The Rock Pile,” as it is affectionately called, is known for having the worst weather in the world. The winter conditions on Washington’s summit rival those found on Mt. Everest.

However, we have a huge amount of respect, both for the mountains we plan to climb, and for the weather that we may encounter. We have seen the list and have read the reports of those who have succumbed to the elements in the White Mountain Region.

We are no match against the limitless power of the mountains. In a battle of wills, we will not win. We realize that they have no concern for our welfare. We know how insignificant and inconsequential we are in the shadow of the mountain. We are aware of the power of nature’s fury as we enter her space. We will heed her warnings. We will bow to her fluctuating moods. We will leave if she tells us that she doesn’t want us there.

We must, if we are to continue to rise to meet the mountaintops. Peace, and hike on!

How to submit photos and news

Readers, local merchants, institutions, municipalities, non-profit groups, and civic organizations are strongly encouraged to send us their hometown news and photos.

- News items and press releases should be sent in an email to the news editor at ekennedy@turley.com as either an MS Word document attachment saved as text only, or pasted directly into your email message screen. Be sure to include who, what,

when, where and why in the submission, preferably written in the third person unless it is a first person letter to the editor or guest column.

- Please send photo captions identifying all subjects in your image(s) from left to right. We need first and last name, hometown, title, if applicable, and a brief description of what subjects are doing in the photo.

- Email uncorrected, raw, RGB color digital photos at highest resolution direct-

ly off your camera, or sized at least 20 inches wide at 72 resolution, 10 inches wide at 200 resolution. They may be emailed as attachments to ekennedy@turley.com.

- Publicity chairpersons are encouraged to send in news about upcoming fundraising or other calendar events at least three weeks before they take place.

We will respond to all email messages received.

If you don’t have e-mail, please mail these materials to:

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To submit your announcement complete this form and send to Ware River News, 80 Main St., Ware, MA 01082 Or email: ekennedy@turley.com

Baby’s First Name: _____

Parents (names & hometown): _____

Siblings (names & hometown): _____

Maternal Grandparents (names & hometown): _____

Paternal Grandparents (names & hometown): _____

Birthdate: _____ Additional info: _____

Deer rescued from Lake Lashaway

By Sloane M. Perron
Correspondent

NORTH BROOKFIELD – On Jan. 3, the North Brookfield Police were called after reports that a deer had fallen through the ice and was trapped in Lake Lashaway. Police Sgt. David Churchey called the North Brookfield Fire Department and Environmental Protection Officers to assist the animal.

A command was set up near 37 Shore Road as the North Brookfield Fire Department arrived on the scene with a hovercraft. The Spencer Fire Department provided a boat and members of the East Brookfield and West Brookfield fire departments were also on hand to assist.

Capt. David Martin and Lt. George Nolette from the North Brookfield Fire Department operated the hovercraft. The operators broke the ice around



A deer fell through the ice on Lake Lashaway and had trouble making it to shore so North Brookfield firefighters led him their hovercraft.

the deer but had difficulty getting the animal to safety. According to North Brookfield Fire Chief Joe Holway, after two hours of being in the water, the

animal was exhausted. Further complicating matters was the fact that the deer was afraid of the hovercraft and kept moving away from the rescuers.

Churchey and the two Environmental Protection officers devised a strategy to put a rope around the deer and use the sound of the hovercraft to lead it to the shore. “We literally carried the animal up into the yard,” Chief Holway said.

The Environmental Protection officers stayed with the animal until he was strong enough to go back into the woods. The deer was so exhausted after struggling in the water, that he rested on shore for two hours before making his way back into the forest.

Residents of Lake Lashaway gathered to watch the rescue and take photos. People even started cheering for the deer as he made his way to shore.

The Chief called it an “uplifting” story and said that he was happy that the animal made it to safety. “He looked at us in the hovercraft boat as if to say, ‘thank you.’”



The deer wasn’t exactly comfortable with the hovercraft used to guide back to shore.



A deer that fell through the ice of Lake Lashaway was led back to shore.

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Courtesy photos by the North Brookfield Fire Department. The deer rested after being guided to the shore of Lake Lashaway.



After being led back to the shore of Lake Lashaway, the deer rested for two hours before heading back into the woods.

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Smola supports expanded telehealth options and rate parity for residents

BOSTON – State Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) recently supported comprehensive health care legislation that will allow Massachusetts residents to access telehealth services at rates comparable to in-person doctor visits.

Senate Bill 2984, An Act promoting a resilient health care system that puts patients first, was enacted by the House of Representatives on a vote of 157-0 on Dec. 23, and by the Senate on a voice vote. The bill, which represents a compromise negotiated by a six-member House and Senate conference committee appointed in July, is now before Gov. Charlie Baker, who has 10 days to review the bill and act on it.

Smola said that in addition to establishing rate parity for telehealth services, Senate Bill 2984 provides consumers with protections against out-of-network “surprise” medical billing. It also expands the scope of practice for optometrists and certain nursing professionals, while enhancing coverage for COVID-19 testing and services, reimbursements for cancer clinical trials, and treatment coverage for certain childhood diseases.

Under Senate Bill 2984, public and private insurers will be required to provide reimbursements on a permanent basis for behavioral health services delivered via telehealth at the same rate as behavioral health services provided in-person. The bill also mandates that telehealth services for primary care and chronic disease care be reimbursed at the same rate as in-person visits for the next two years, and keeps telehealth rates for other services in place until 90 days after the governor’s declared March 10, 2020 State of Emergency is lifted.

To protect patients from unexpected and costly medical bills, Senate Bill 2984 requires health care providers to notify patients of their network status before a non-emergency procedure takes place so patients can make more informed health care decisions. Health insurance carriers will also be required to provide a toll-free number patients can use to obtain information on an individual provider’s network status.

Smola said Senate Bill 2984 will allow nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists and psychiatric nurse mental health clinical specialists to practice

independently by treating patients and prescribing medications if they have practiced under a doctor’s supervision for at least two years, bringing Massachusetts policies in line with other New England states. The bill also allows optometrists to treat glaucoma, which is currently the practice in every other state in the country except Massachusetts.

As the state continues to deal with the global coronavirus pandemic, Senate Bill 2984 will require the Group Insurance Commission, MassHealth and commercial carriers to cover all COVID-19-related emergency, inpatient services and cognitive rehabilitation services, both in-network and out-of-network, without imposing any cost-sharing requirements. This coverage will also extend to medically necessary outpatient testing for asymptomatic individuals, including those working in certain high-risk jobs.

Smola said the bill contains additional provisions that allow for cancer patients participating in a cancer clinical trial to be reimbursed for reasonable travel and accommodation expenses associated with the clinical trial. The bill also requires commercial health insurers, hospital service corporations, medical service corporations and HMOs to cover treatment for Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections and Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome beginning in 2022, and establishes a PANDA/PANS Advisory Council to advise the Department of Public Health on research, diagnosis, treatment and education relating to the disorder and syndrome.

The bill also establishes a Rare Disease Advisory Council to advise the governor, the Legislature and DPH on the incidence of rare disease in Massachusetts. The bill defines a rare disease as one that “affects fewer than 200,000 people in the United States, has status as an orphan disease for research purposes or is known to be substantially under diagnosed and unrecognized as a result of lack of adequate diagnostic and research information.”

For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or 617-722-2100.

SPORTS

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Counting app 'pitched' to baseball committee

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – While some sports are struggling to be able to just take place, there is hope that spring sports like softball, lacrosse, and baseball will be able to have somewhat of a normal season.

With that discussion, the Baseball Committee of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association has begun further discussions about the uniform record-keeping of pitching.

A couple of years ago, the MIAA agreed to institute pitch counts in high school baseball.

One of the most glaring changes high school coaches will have to deal with is a pitch count, which would require a pitcher to come out of a game once he reaches 115 pitches, and then require at least four days of rest before that individual can pitch again. There are other rest requirements for smaller numbers of pitches.

For South Hadley High School coach Matt Foley, he wonders how the pitch count rule is going to be enforced.

"The MIAA is going to need a system of reporting," said Foley. "But the two sides are going to need to agree on pitch counts during the game."

Teams will need to have individuals be responsible for keeping accurate pitch count, and new South Hadley Athletic Director Eric Castonguay says there is supposed to be an online reporting system for pitch counts through the MIAA.

"Pitch counts are supposed to go to Athletic Directors, who will place them online," Castonguay said not long after the rule was passed.

At a recent Baseball Committee meeting, Change Up, a phone app, was presented to committee members and is an official "PitchSmart" USA Baseball-certified application.

The app itself is very simple. It provides a comprehensive track-



Pitch counts will be instituted in the 2021 high school season, requiring mandatory rest for pitchers between appearances.

ing of a player's pitching activity across a season.

One huge benefit is that is has automated reporting to a database for the National Federation of High Schools. The MIAA recently adopted NFHS rules in nearly all sports, including baseball. While the app supposedly provides analytics in regards to safety, durability, and effectiveness of a given pitcher, it's most important factor for high school teams is the ability to document pitch counts and provide access for all teams to access any team's current pitch status.

While it is very unlikely a high

school coach will be concerned with the analytics portion of an athlete's pitching performances, it will help them determine which pitchers can be used and for how long in a given game. It will also allow for pitching planning to take place, especially for a team that may have three to four games in a given week.

The pitch counting rule is supposed to be in full effect in 2021 whenever the season begins. The app is utilized in many states, including most of the Northeast.

If the MIAA reaches a deal for the app, it would address the con-

cerns of Foley and many other high school coaches.

There is still some criticism over how the rule could hamper smaller schools in Division 4, potentially crippling programs and crippling developmental programs like junior varsity as high school coaches could be forced to use extra pitchers from junior varsity teams to meet the pitch count requirements.

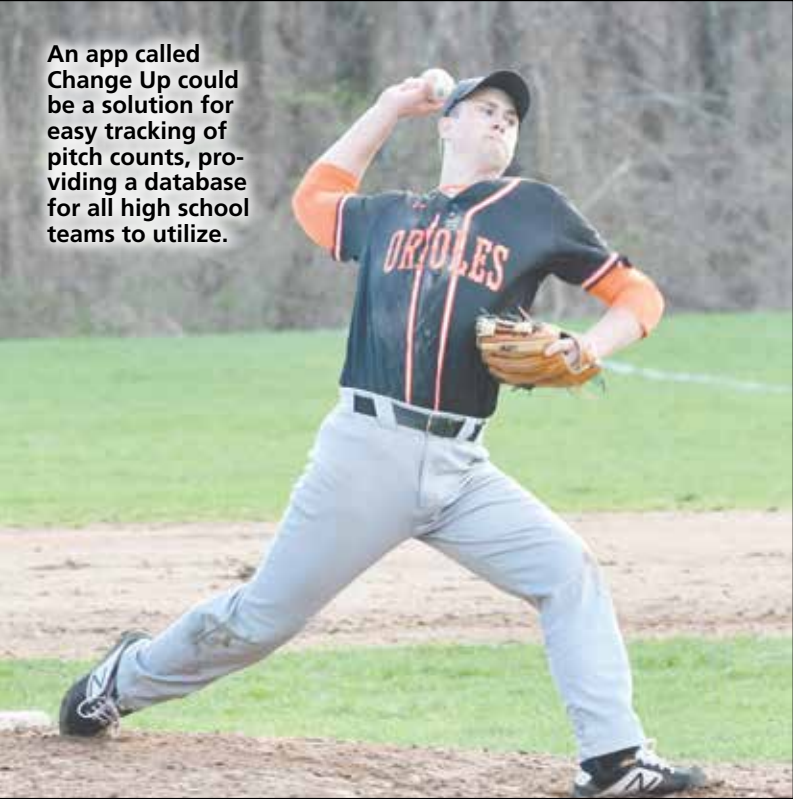
American Legion teams in Western Massachusetts utilized pitch counts in the 2019. Pitch counts were agreed to by both teams during games and tracked via the Legion's website.



American Legion teams utilized pitch counts in the 2019 summer season.



Smaller schools like Monson could struggle with pitch-counting due to a smaller pool of players to choose from.



An app called Change Up could be a solution for easy tracking of pitch counts, providing a database for all high school teams to utilize.



The Annual St. Patrick's Road Race has been cancelled. It is also the second straight year the event will not happen.

Road race cancelled for second year



The 10K course has been a long-time tradition held the day before the parade.

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – For the second consecutive year, the Holyoke St. Patrick's Committee has cancelled two annual events that are both huge culture and economic boosting events for the city and the surrounding area.

Thanks to a continuing surge and the need for more time to administer the vaccine for COVID-19, the St. Patrick's Committee has voted to cancel both the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race and the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The road race and parade were cancelled last year as the pandemic first started last March

and much of the state had to be essentially locked down. The two events were cancelled as large scale events were no longer safe to have.

According to a press release from the committee, "since the cancellation of the 69th Annual Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade last March, Officers of the Committee have had numerous conversations with city health and public safety officials. All were hopeful that the COVID-19 health pandemic would have subsided, and it would be safe to gather in large numbers again. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Although some have been able to obtain the

Please see **RACE**, page 8

Current restrictions could severely limit fans at winter sports

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Depending on a town's individual situation, winter schedules have begun formulating in high school boys and girls basketball, swimming, and boys and girls ice hockey.

One thing various schools will be navigating very carefully or not at all is the ability to have fans in high school gymnasiums.

Due to the space confines and the need to keep students in smaller groups, it is almost certain there will be no fans at swim meets, but there could be fans at some high school gymnasiums and possibly at ice hockey rinks.

However, under the current restrictions by Gov. Charlie Baker, it may not be possible.

During the fall season, the indoor gathering size got as large as 50 people during the most advance phase of the governor's re-opening plan. But with thousands and thousands of new cases each day coming off the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, Baker has shrunk the maximum gathering size indoors to just 10 people.

While schools were exempted or had orders modified, it is not clear, according to the Massachusetts website, how it will apply to fans at high school games. Baker did say at a press conference last week that the 10 or less guideline did not apply to schools with data showing

that school could take place safely.

During the fall season, only girls volleyball was held indoors. A few schools did allow just one or two fans per home team player to be in the gymnasium and social distancing and face coverings were required at all times while indoors.

Outdoors, most schools allowed home fans up to a certain number or issued two or three passes to players and only those with passes were allowed inside venues. A few schools, citing a lack of ability to control the crowds, were forced to bar fans completely in order to allow games to be played.

Holyoke was the first school to be forced to shut down sports due to COVID-related issues. Chicopee, Ludlow, and Wilbraham also experienced similar shutdowns.

Ice hockey is scheduled to begin as well, with arenas including Fitzpatrick, Olympia Ice Center, and Smead hosting a limited number of games. There are only 40 players allowed to participate in games, and it is unclear how many people the arenas will allow to attend games, especially with teams sharing home ice.

Fans should check with their child's individual schools in order to find out what rules will be in place for fans.

Playing of games could take place around Jan. 21 and about 10 to 12 contests are planned for basketball and hockey. There will be no tournaments for winter season sports.

Granite series adds trip to New London

WALPOLE, N.H. -- Granite State Pro Stock Series officials announced on Saturday a trip to New London-Waterford Speedbowl has been set for Saturday, July 24. The race was originally listed as a TBA on the schedule, announced on Dec. 10, but has now been sealed up.

The New London-Waterford event is part of a 15-race announced slate for the New Hampshire based touring series for the new calendar year. The .375-mile asphalt oval, located in Waterford, Connecticut, will mark the second stop in the nutmeg state, as the first will come in the season-opener as part of the NAPA Spring Sizzler at Stafford Motor Speedway on April 24.

The New London-Waterford race will help begin the second half of the season in the hunt to crown a champion. "Adding this date at Waterford truly gives our schedule a mix of everything for 2021," Mike Parks, president of the Granite State Pro Stock Series, said. "Waterford has become one of the tracks that always brings out the top Pro Stock talent. We're looking forward to heading back to Connecticut."

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, GSPSS teams competed at New London-Waterford twice in 2020. Joey Pole was crowned the champion in October -- scoring a victory in the process -- while Seekonk Speedway regular David Darling dominated the September event en route to Victory Lane.

For more information on the Granite State Pro Stock Series, visit the series on the web at gspss.net or follow on social media via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

public safety

Ware Police Log

Monday, Jan. 4
9:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Greenwich Road – Written Warning
11:15 a.m. Accident (Hit and Run) West Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Under \$1,000
1:33 p.m. Ambulance Request Church Street – Services Rendered
2:25 p.m. Accident, Vehicle West Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000
3:25 p.m. Ambulance Request West Main Street – Services Rendered
3:27 p.m. Larceny, Theft Report West Main Street – Services Rendered
5:25 p.m. Ambulance Request Coffey Hill Road – Referred to Other Agency
5:50 p.m. Ambulance Request Maple Avenue – Referred to Other Agency
6:06 p.m. Accident, Vehicle Palmer Road – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000
8:56 p.m. Silent, 911 Call Church Street – Referred to Other Agency
10:15 p.m. Ambulance Request Hidden Acres – Referred to Other Agency
10:20 p.m. Ambulance Request Church Street – Referred to Other Agency
11:25 p.m. Disturbance South Street – Arrest, Misdemeanor Charge
Arrest: Martin W. Henrich, 42, Palmer
Assault and Battery on +60/ Disabled; Disorderly Conduct, Subsequent Offense c272 §53
11:34 p.m. Ambulance Request Eagle Street – Referred to Other Agency

Tuesday, Jan. 5
11:43 a.m. Larceny, Theft Report West Street – Investigation Pending
12:03 p.m. Ambulance Request West Main Street – Services Rendered
12:17 p.m. Ambulance Request Valley View – Services Rendered
1:02 p.m. Trash Dumping Complaint Church Street – Advised Contact Police if Repeated
1:25 p.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Dale Street – Services Rendered
3:10 p.m. Vandalism Otis Avenue – Investigation Pending
3:28 p.m. Hang-up, 911 Call Convent Hill Road – Services Rendered
3:30 p.m. Hang-up, 911 Call Shoreline Drive – Services Rendered
4:26 p.m. Harassment Complaint Belchertown Road – Advised Civil Action
5:16 p.m. Ambulance Request Otis Avenue – Referred to Other Agency

Agency
7 p.m. Threat Report Main Street – Services Rendered
7:52 p.m. Harassment Complaint Fourth Avenue – Services Rendered
7:55 p.m. Threat Report Vigeant Street – Services Rendered

Wednesday, Jan. 6
12:27 a.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Shoreline Drive – Services Rendered
6:18 a.m. Ambulance Request Old Belchertown Road – Services Rendered
7:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Church Street – Written Warning
9:58 a.m. Threat Report Otis Avenue – Referred to Other Agency
10:09 a.m. Ambulance Request South Street – Services Rendered
11:05 a.m. Ambulance Request Coffey Hill Road – Services Rendered
11:42 a.m. Ambulance Request Greenwich Road – Services Rendered
2:52 p.m. Ambulance Request West Street – Services Rendered
5:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Palmer Road – Criminal Complaint Issued
6:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Palmer Road – Criminal Complaint Issued
6:32 p.m. Robbery Report West Street – No Police Service Necessary
7:12 p.m. Disturbance Hillside Village – Investigated, Report Filed
2:36 a.m. Parking Complaint Park Street – Citation Issued
2:44 a.m. Parking Complaint North Street – Citation Issued
4:08 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Street – Criminal Complaint Issued
11:38 a.m. Ambulance Request Highland Village – Services Rendered
5:18 p.m. Larceny, Theft Report North Street – Services Rendered
9:23 p.m. Ambulance Request North Street – Services Rendered
10:16 p.m. Hang-up, 911 Call East Street – Services Rendered
11:10 p.m. Ambulance Request Highland Village – Services Rendered

Friday, Jan. 8
12:15 a.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Malboeuf Road – Referred to Other Agency
7:55 a.m. Alarm Burglar West Street – Services Rendered
1:23 p.m. Accident, Vehicle Pulaski Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000
4:33 p.m. Ambulance Request Church Street – Services Rendered
7:03 p.m. Ambulance Request Eagle Street – Referred to Other Agency
7:34 p.m. Abandoned, 911 Call North Street – Services Rendered
8:05 p.m. Accident (Hit and Run) Main Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000
9:13 p.m. Disturbance Main Street – Arrest, Felony Charge
Summons: David Martowski, 57, Bondsville
Assault and Battery on +60/ Disabled With Injury
Arrest: Deshaun W. Tulloch, 25, Springfield
Assault and Battery on +60/ Disabled With Injury

Saturday, Jan. 9
12:15 a.m. Ambulance Request West Street – Services Rendered
12:59 a.m. Alarm Fire Palmer Road – Services Rendered
2:08 a.m. Parking Complaint Park Street – Citation Issued
2:20 a.m. Alarm Burglar Mechanic Street – Services Rendered
3:26 a.m. Alarm Burglar West Street – Services Rendered
11:56 a.m. Disorderly Conduct Vigeant Street – Investigated, Report Filed
1:42 p.m. Ambulance Request North Street – Services Rendered
4 p.m. Ambulance Request Warebrook Drive – Services Rendered
10:17 p.m. Accident, Vehicle Beaver Lake Road – Arrest, Misdemeanor Charge
Arrest: Dylan S. Croft, 29, Ware
OUI-Liquor or .08%; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Leave Scene of Property Damage

Sunday, Jan. 10
12:02 a.m. Alarm Burglar Palmer Road – Services Rendered
12:12 a.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Fisherdict Road – Services Rendered
4:49 a.m. Alarm Burglar Palmer Road – Services Rendered
6:42 a.m. Ambulance Request Church Street – Services Rendered
8:53 a.m. Ambulance Request Valley View – Services Rendered
10:20 a.m. Ambulance Request Highland Village – Services Rendered
12:24 p.m. Fraud Longview Avenue – Services Rendered
4:07 p.m. Ambulance Request Belchertown Road – Referred to Other Agency

Monday, Jan. 11
2:28 a.m. Parking Complaint Pleasant Street – Citation Issued
8:53 a.m. Silent, 911 Call North Street – Services Rendered

RACE from page 7

COVID-19 vaccine, it is not yet widely distributed enough. The health and safety of first responders, parade spectators and parade participants are our primary concern.”

The committee then voted on Monday to suspend parade and race activities, thus cancelling the parade and race.

“In observance of the public health circumstances, the Parade Committee voted at its Jan. 3 virtual meeting to ‘suspend all in-person Parade activities through the end of March 2021.’ As a result of this vote, the 2020-2021 Parade will be postponed until 2022.”

Parade President Marc Joyce said the decision was very difficult, and parade organizers waited as long as possible before making the tough decision to cancel the parade.

“This was not an easy decision to make”, said Marc Joyce, 2020-2021 Parade President. “We understand that many will be saddened, but we need to do what is best for our community. We will march again, and we will have much to celebrate over homecoming weekend in 2022.

“I would like to sincerely thank the many people who have contacted us over the past year. The Committee is comprised of 200+ members who work all year-long to put on, what we believe, is the best St. Patrick’s Parade in the country. I would like to thank all of them for their efforts in helping to carry-out this celebrated tradition. The Committee would also like to acknowledge the City of Holyoke and our many sponsors, without whose assistance and cooperation the Parade would not be possible

SIGN-UPS NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2021 RELICS SOFTBALL



The Western Mass Relics has opened registration for the 2021 Senior Softball Season. The Silver Division (age 50 to 64) has filled 36 of the 112 spots and the Gold Division (65-and-up) has filled 32 of the 96 spots. The registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis. All our games are played at the Fish & Game in Ludlow. For further information or to register go to <http://www.westernmassrelics.org>.

year-after-year.”

The Road Race was set to be in its 45th year last year when it was cancelled due to the beginning of the pandemic. The Road Race draws out huge crowds and has been an event that has drawn harriers from all over Western Massachusetts as well as all over the country and even some foreign countries.

The event was cancelled last year just 11 days prior, though runners are getting plenty of notice.

The last race was held in 2019

and was won by Louis Serafini of Somerville. The female winner was Danielle Winslow, a local runner from South Hadley.

A lot of runners use the Holyoke race as preparation for the Boston Marathon, which usually is held a month later on Patriots Day. That race has been postponed and it is not completely clear if and when that race will take place though officials have been hopeful it could be done in the fall of this year.

Warren Police Log

Sunday, Dec. 27
4 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Town Farm Road – Transported to Hospital
10:36 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Southbridge Road – Transported to Hospital

Monday, Dec. 28
8:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
11:59 a.m. Vandalism Reed Street – Report Filed
10:09 p.m. Illegal Dumping Main Street – Information Given

Tuesday, Dec. 29
1:36 p.m. Illegal Dumping Forest Avenue – Officer Advised

Wednesday, Dec. 30
6:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Citation Issued
6:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Written Warning
3:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Reed Street – Citation Issued
7:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning

Thursday, Dec. 31
10:40 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Winthrop Terrace – Transported to Hospital
12:46 p.m. Breaking and Entering Past Residential Heritage Drive – Report Filed
1:37 p.m. Vandalism Ware Road – Officer Advised
Summons: Andrew M. West, 51, West Warren
Destruction of Property +\$1,200, Malicious c266 §127
4:45 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Miller Drive – Transported to Hospital
6:01 p.m. Parking Violation Milton O. Fountain Way – Citation Issued

Friday, Jan. 1
11:14 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Old West Brookfield Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal
2:06 p.m. Larceny Pulaski Street – Area Patrolled
4:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Citation Issued
5:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued

8:20 p.m. Welfare Check Winthrop Terrace – Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Jan. 2
1:27 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Bragg Road – Transported to Hospital
6:53 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Coy Hill Road – Transported to Hospital
8:01 a.m. Fire, Motor Vehicle Accident Southbridge Road – Report Filed
4:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Written Warning
6:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Main Street – Report Filed

Sunday, Jan. 3
5:05 a.m. Officer Wanted Milton O. Fountain Way – Transported to Hospital

Monday, Jan. 4
10:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued

Tuesday, Jan. 5
6:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Citation Issued
10:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
4:41 p.m. Serve Warrant Main Street – Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: John E. Berthiaume, 61, Warren
Fugitive From Justice on Court Warrant
5:01 p.m. Threats Yankee Drummer Drive – Report Filed
6:20 p.m. Assault and Battery South Street – Report Filed
Summons: Lizmarie Valentin, 20, Worcester
Assault and Battery

Wednesday, Jan. 6
4:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
5:24 p.m. Fire, Illegal Burn Old West Brookfield Road – Investigated
5:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning

Thursday, Jan. 7
12:35 p.m. Welfare Check North Street – Report Filed
1:07 p.m. Gunshots Connor

Editor's Note: People in this country are presumed to be innocent until found guilty in a court of law. Police provide us with the information you read on this page as public record information. If you or any suspect listed here is found not guilty or has charges dropped or reduced, we will gladly print that information as a follow-up upon being presented with documented proof of the court's final disposition.

Drive – Investigated
7:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
7:19 p.m. Fire, Mutual Aid Ambulance West Brookfield – Ambulance Canceled
7:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued

Friday, Jan. 8
1:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
3:10 a.m. Parking Violation Main Street – Citation Issued
4:28 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Spring Street – Information Taken
5:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued

Saturday, Jan. 9
10:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
2:05 p.m. Trauma Main Street – Transported to Hospital
6:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Bridges Avenue – Written Warning

Sunday, Jan. 10
12:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Vehicle Towed
Summons: Donovan S. Plante, 22, West Brookfield
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Lights Violation, Motor Vehicle
12:43 a.m. Welfare Check Old West Brookfield Road – Transported to Hospital
1:40 a.m. Parking Violation North Street – Citation Issued

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Jan. 4 to 11, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 69 building/property checks, 19 directed/area patrols, seven radar assignments, 12 traffic controls, two animal calls, three complaints, 28 motor vehicle stops, eight emergency 911 calls, one forgery/fraud and one larceny/theft/shoplifting in the town of Hardwick.

Tuesday, Jan. 5
10:15 a.m. Initiated – Assist Citizen Church Street – Report Taken
10:45 a.m. Phone – Medical Alarm Church Lane – Transported to Hospital
12:21 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Church Street – Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Jan. 6
1:14 a.m. 911 – Investigation Broad Street – Services Rendered
7:59 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Hardwick Road – Transported to Hospital
12:20 p.m. Phone – Medical Alarm Hardwick Road – Services Rendered

Thursday, Jan. 7
9:04 a.m. Phone – Forgery/ Fraud Pine Street – Report Taken
9:17 a.m. Phone – Complaint Broad Street – Peace Restored
1 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Bridge Street – Transported to Hospital
2:49 p.m. 911 – Misdial Barre Road – Spoken To
3:01 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Petersham Road – Written Warning
4:26 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning
5:33 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning

Friday, Jan. 8
1:24 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Greenwich Road – False Alarm

5:34 a.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Written Warning
2:05 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Petersham Road – Citation Issued
2:41 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Failure to Stop Patrill Hollow Road – Citation Issued
3:25 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Petersham Road – Vehicle Towed
7 p.m. Phone – Complaint Mellon Road – Officer Handled

Saturday, Jan. 9
1:13 a.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Hardwick Road – Citation Issued
12:47 p.m. Initiated – Safety Hazard Muddy Brook Road – Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Sunday, Jan. 10
10:38 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Church Lane – Transported to Hospital
6:05 p.m. Phone – Complaint Greenwich Road – Investigated

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Jan. 4 to 11, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 17 building/property checks, 29 directed/area patrols, two radar assignments, four traffic controls, one animal call, four complaints, 16 motor vehicle stops and two emergency 911 calls in the town of New Braintree.

Tuesday, Jan. 5
3:40 p.m. Phone – Complaint Cemetery Road – Spoken To

Wednesday, Jan. 6
4:04 p.m. Phone – Complaint Memorial Drive – Spoken To

Thursday, Jan. 7
2:49 p.m. Phone – Complaint Cemetery Road – Officer Handled

Friday, Jan. 8
3:36 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Hardwick Road – Citation Issued
4:23 p.m. Initiated – Motor

Monday, Jan. 4
9:54 a.m. 911 – Assist Citizen Wine Road – Officer Handled
4:49 p.m. Phone – 911 Misdial Ravine Road – Call Canceled

Vehicle Stop Hardwick Road – Citation Issued
4:31 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Hardwick Road – Written Warning
5:11 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Hardwick Road – Citation Issued
7:43 p.m. Phone – Complaint Cemetery Road – Could Not Locate

Saturday, Jan. 9
9:42 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Hardwick Road – Citation Issued

obituaries

John F. Lagacy

MONSON – John F. Lagacy, 92, passed away Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021, at Chestnut Hill in East Longmeadow. John was born in Hartford, Connecticut to the late John G. and Caroline E. (Dezalia), Lagacy.

He made his home and raised a family in Monson since 1962. John, known to family and friends as Jack, retired from Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) as a railroad electrician after 45 years in 1990. He was a communicant of St. Patrick's Church in Monson.

Jack was a simple man enjoying simple pleasures. He loved hunting, particularly deer hunting in western Mass and throughout New England. He was a longtime Boston Bruins fan and was lucky enough to experience their most recent Stanley Cup runs with his family. He was a huge fan of the Great American

Songbook era of music and Frank Sinatra was his favorite. He was also a huge movie buff; action



films in particular, and he never met a western he didn't like. He enjoyed classic cars, spending many years working on his own vintage Cadillac, and also spent earlier years on model railroading. Most of all Jack loved spending time with his family and putting around the house on various car and home improvement projects.

Jack leaves his loving wife of 58 years, Adine Althea (Chamberlin) Lagacy, and their four children; Maria Bandy, and her partner, Kevin Martin, of Claremont, New Hampshire, James Lagacy, and his

wife, Heather Mach, of Ware, Lisa Kowal, and her husband, Andy, of Southampton, and John Lagacy, and his wife, Renee, of Tehachapi, California; eight grandchildren, Terry, Brian, Eli, Shannon, Dina,

Jillian, Nicholas and Brandon; brothers, Edward Lagacy, and his wife, Sue, of Monson, Richard Lagacy of Palmer, Donald Lagacy, and his wife, Terry, of West Springfield; sisters, Shirley Demusis and her husband, David, of Springfield, and Doris Vancini, and her husband, Bob, of Ludlow, and many nieces and nephews. Jack was predeceased by his brothers, Robert and Raymond Lagacy, and his sister, Carolyn Lagacy.

Funeral services were held Monday, Jan. 11, 2021, in Lombard Funeral Home. A visiting hour was held from 10 to 11 a.m., with a service at 11 a.m. in the funeral home followed by burial at Hillcrest Cemetery in Monson. Attendees were asked to adhere to social distancing and face covering requirements.

In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation in John's name to St Patrick's Restoration Fund, P.O. Box 473, Monson, MA 01057 or to the Springfield Rescue Mission 10 Mill St. Springfield, MA 01108.

For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Alexandra B. Zwemke

GLOUCESTER – Alexandra Brittany Zwemke, 28, passed away while sleeping on Dec. 29, 2020.

She was born April 4, 1992, in Beverly, as the daughter of William Zwemke and Victoria Zwemke-Cushera.

Ali spent her first six years in Ware, and then moved to Leominster in 1998. She graduated from Leominster High School in 2010, with a technical certificate as a graphic artist. She was awarded the Fitchburg State College Writing Award in 2009 and 2010. She was also recognized as an outstanding student in her year of graduation.

Ali participated in youth sports including basketball and Dek Hockey. She earned the nickname of "bone cruncher" much to the dismay of the parents of the opposing teams.

After graduating from high school, Ali attended Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester for a semester studying criminal justice. She had a dream of one day becoming an attorney but found she was just not ready for college. She worked at Office Max and Colonial Chevrolet in Fitchburg, and then at the Holiday Inn in Marlborough. She eventually moved to Gloucester in 2014 to be closer to family members.

Ali worked at Timberline, The Building Center, Jalapenos, The Dog Bar and Italiano's. Ali also worked at Applied Materials as a contract worker in the semi-conductor manufacturing assembly department. Lastly, she was employed by Applied Materials as a facilities technician in the Facilities Department. Ali spent many years also working with her dad on numerous residential and commercial construction projects. Many customers and contractors remember Ali as an impressive and responsible hard worker who got things done. Ali was outgoing and social. She always had a wise-crack at the ready, but clearly had a helpful, supportive, compassionate way with all who sought her help and advice. Her laughter was infectious and clearly stood out in a crowd. Her smile was radiant and cheered up many who were experiencing dark times of their own.

Ali was outdoorsy and enjoyed frequenting the family camp at Dead Dog Mountain in Corinth,



Death notices

Lagacy, John F.
Died: Jan. 3, 2021
Service: Jan. 11
Lombard Funeral Home
Monson

Smith, Robert G.
Died: Jan. 12, 2021
Funeral service:
Jan. 15, 10 a.m.
St. Mary's Church
Ware

Mayo, Melvin R.
Died: Jan. 8, 2021
Services are private

Zwemke, Alexandra B.
Died: Dec. 29, 2020

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Melvin R. Mayo

WARE – Melvin R. Mayo, 100, of Ware, died on Friday, Jan. 8, 2021, at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center due to complications from Coronavirus.

He leaves three daughters, Joanne M. Bechard, and her husband, Arthur, of Palmer; Ginny Mayo and her spouse, Pat Gingras, of Worcester; and Rosalie M. Doane, of Springfield; one son, Stephen Mayo, of Worcester; six grandchildren, Michael Bechard, Kevin Bechard and his, wife, Sandy, Joanne Guercia and her husband, Paul, Todd Messier, Tim Messier, and Louis Mayo, and his wife, Megan; nine great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren.

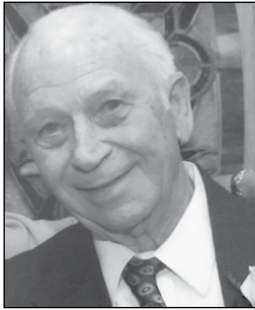
He was predeceased by his wife of 65 years, Vietta (Poulin) Mayo,

in 2006, two sons, Melvin "Mike" Mayo Jr. and Raymond Mayo, as well as two grandsons and three brothers.

He was born in Fairfield, Maine, son of the late Oscar and Jenny (Chayer) Mayo. He and Vietta lived in Ware for 65 years, and they enjoyed wintering in Florida for 25 years together.

Melvin worked as a machinist at Warren Pumps and the General Electric Manufacturing Co. in Fitchburg for 30 years, retiring in 1982.

Both Mel and Vietta enjoyed playing the piano. He played for over 75 years, and liked all kinds



of music. He loved reading and going to the Ware Library where he would take out five books a week.

He was a long-time member of All Saint's Church in Ware. He especially enjoyed his time spent with his friends at the McDonald's Coffee Club and the Ware Senior Center.

Services for Melvin will be held privately. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Town of Ware, for the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Rd., Ware, MA 01082.

An online guest book is available at charboneaufh.com.

Robert G. Smith



BELCHERTOWN – Robert G. Smith, 84, of Belchertown, passed away peacefully at home on Jan. 12, 2021. Born in Ware, on Dec. 17, 1936, he was the son of the late Russell Smith and Mae (Brown) Mundell.

Bob spent his early years in Ware before proudly serving in the U.S. Navy from 1955 to 1959. After the Navy, Bob went on to marry Jan, his wife of 62 years, and raise their five children. Bob was a long-time resident of West Brookfield before he and

Jan retired to Wells, Maine, where they spent 23 wonderful years before returning to Massachusetts.

Predeceased by his wife in 2019, and his son, Christian, Bob is survived by his children Wendy, Timothy, Jeremy and Eric, 18 grandchildren and one great grandchild. Bob enjoyed fishing and a good game of chess. The family wishes to thank Bob's caring nurse, Ellen, for her extraordinary care, compassion and kindness during Bob's later weeks.

A walk-through calling hour

will be held on Thursday, Jan. 14, from 3 to 4 p.m. in the Cebula Funeral Home Chapel, 66 South St., Ware. A funeral service will be held on Friday, Jan. 15, at 10 a.m., in St. Mary's Church, 57 South St., Ware. Everyone will meet directly in the church on Friday morning. Private interment will follow with Naval honors in Sacred Heart Cemetery in West Brookfield. Due to Massachusetts COVID-19 Restrictions, reduced capacity, along with masks or face coverings, and social distancing must be followed, for all services.

For more information and online guest book, please visit www.cebulafuneralhome.com.

Free COVID-19 testing at HCC extended until March 31

HOLYOKE - Free "Stop the Spread" COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended until March 31, 2021, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college's main campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

HCC has been serving as a "Stop the Spread" drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

The HCC testing site is open

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents, and conducted on a first come, first serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>. Please Note: Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations: <https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>

Devereux staff to host virtual meeting

RUTLAND – Devereux Therapeutic Foster Care staff will hold an informal virtual meeting regarding becoming a foster parent. Participants will receive general information about the foster care program and have questions answered regarding fostering. If fostering is something people have always thought about and they want to make a difference, this a

good place to start.

The upcoming dates: Tuesday, Feb. 2, from 6 to 7 p.m., and Wednesday, Feb. 3, from 10 to 11 a.m. If people are interested in attending, they may contact Maureen at 413-209-7677 or Janet at 508-713-3895. They will send the zoom link needed to join. Devereux promotes diversity, equity and inclusion.

Tri-Parish Community Church news

NEW BRAINTREE — The words, Tri-Parish Community Church, are not large in space on this page; but they represent a small body of people with big hearts and a lot of compassion for the communities they serve.

From the basement of the Gilbertville Town Hall, the Food Pantry, under the direction of Liz Reilly, reaches out twice a month to those needing help with groceries, especially in these trying times. The church's Deacons' Fund is there with emergency money to aid those finding themselves in a temporary financial bind. Then, there is the group that cooks a meal one a month to deliver to the "Mustard Seed Mission" kitchen in Worcester. A small force and budget in a large three-town area that could use more help spreading the word and caring of Jesus. Anyone who would like to see this effort grow may become a church member, volunteer assistance or contribute in any way may leave a message at the New Braintree Congregational Church office at 508-867-3306 and the call will be returned.

The Sunday, Jan. 17 service in the New Braintree Congregational Church will be led by Deacon Ginny Rich at 10 a.m. Social distancing and masks are required. The next church Zoom meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 21, at 6 p.m.. If people wish to participate they may contact triparishcc@gmail.com.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
"An Open and Welcoming Faith Community"
Park & Pleasant Streets
P.O. Box 447, Ware, Massachusetts 01082
413-967-6100 trinityware.org
Jubilee Cupboard – 967-3274
The Rev. Mary E. Rosendale
D.D. - Bishop Episcopal Diocese Western Massachusetts
Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 10am-2pm and by appt, Please call the cell number: 413-687-5568
9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m., Children's Chapel 9:30 a.m.
"You don't have to be Episcopal to share the Word and Fellowship of the Spirit" No matter who you are or where you have been, You are welcome.

THE JUBILEE CUPBOARD provides emergency food assistance and is open Thursday from 9 AM until noon. The location is next door to Trinity Church directly behind the Old Ware Fire Station. Please phone 413-967-3274. Donations of non-perishable food are welcomed by The Jubilee Cupboard during open hours only or make arrangements for pickup. Food may also be donated to The Jubilee Cupboard at a drop off box at the Big Y Supermarket in Ware.
AA Thursdays, 7:30pm

UNITED CHURCH OF WARE
49 Church Street, Ware, MA 01082
413-967-9981

Office Hours: Monday 9-12/Tuesday 8:30-12:30/ Wed 9-2/Thurs 9-12/Friday closed

Saturday: Worship service 5:00 p.m (Communion offered each week, Healing Worship on second Saturday of each month)
Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 p.m.
Sunday: Worship service 10:30 a.m. (Communion offered first Sunday of each month)
Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday School - 10:45 a.m., Children's Church after Children's Sermon each Sunday, Coffee hour after service
Tuesday: T.O.P.S. 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Weight Watchers 5:00-7:30 p.m.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
17 North Street, Ware
ST. MARY'S CHURCH
57 South Street, Ware
Pastor: Rev. Fr. Piotr Kalik

General Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday: 9am - 12pm; Friday: Closed
Cemetery Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday: 10am - 2pm; Friday: Closed
Phone numbers: 413-967-5913; 413-967-4963
Fax Number: 413-967-4679
Emails: allsaintschurch60@gmail.com
www.allsaintsware.org • www.stmarysware.org

Mass Schedule:
4:00 PM Saturday - All Saints
5:15 PM Saturday - St. Mary's

8:00 AM Sunday - All Saints
9:30 AM Sunday - St. Mary's
5:15 PM Sunday - All Saints

WEEKDAY MASSES
Monday and Tuesday 7:30 AM at All Saints
Wednesday and Thursday 7:30 AM at St. Mary's
First Friday 8:00 AM at All Saints
First Saturday 8:00 AM at St.Mary's

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION
All Saints - Saturday 3:00 - 3:30 PM
St. Mary's - Saturday before the 5:15 PM Mass

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION
Vigil: 5:30 pm at All Saints
Day: 7:30 am - All Saints
12:10 pm - St. Mary's
6:30 pm - St. Mary's

Parish Office for both Churches is located at 60 South Street, Ware - MA 01082.
Due to Covid-19 pandemic time our office is open by appointment only.

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALOYSIUS
58 Church St., Gilbertville, Tel. 477-6493
The Rev. Richard Lembo, Pastor
Saturday Confession: 3 p.m.; Vigil Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 7:30 a.m.

ST. AUGUSTINE MISSION
98 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA
413-477-6493
The Rev. Richard Lembo, Pastor
Sunday 9 a.m.

HOLY CROSS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH
61 Maple St., Ware, Tel. 967-3782
Fr. Senior Fryderyk Banas, Pastor
Sunday: 9 a.m. Mass

LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH
(formerly QVBC)
258A Malbouef Road, Ware
Phone: 413-668-7041
Email: LBC7@gmail.com
Web: www.lbc7.com

Sunday Service times:
9:30am Prayer and Fellowship
10:00am Bible School
11:00am Worship Service

The LBC family of believers invite you to join us as we work together to serve God in our community.

We are dedicated to spiritual growth through purposeful prayer, truthful teaching, and practical preaching.

We rely on the Bible as our source of all Godly wisdom and truth.

We proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior given freely by God and offered to all who choose to believe in Him.

GEORGE WHITEFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
33 West Main St., West Brookfield
Tel. 508-867-3667
Pastor Christy Wright

Worship and Sunday School, Sundays 9:30 am followed by coffee hour.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
108 New Braintree Rd., North Brookfield
774-286-1322
SUNDAY SCHEDULE Services start at 10 a.m.

TRI-PARISH COMMUNITY CHURCH
3 Oakham Rd., P.O. Box 202
New Braintree 508-867-3306

The Tri-Parish Community Church represents the communities of Gilbertville, Hardwick, and New Braintree. Our service will begin at 10:00. Bible Study begins on 9/13 at 8:15 am - 9:30am. Choir Rehearsals are at 9am and Sunday School returns on 9/13 at 10:00 am. We are worshipping at The First Universalist Church of Hardwick, 9 Ruggles Hill Rd. Hardwick through December.

All are welcome to worship and join in fellowship and light refreshment following the service.

Change of Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10am - noon. Heidi Jeldres, Administrative Assistant. (508)867-3306 triparish@verizon.net.

Appointments can be scheduled at either the Pastor's office or at your home when needed. Please contact Pastor Deb to make arrangements. debasheps@aol.com or (413)478-0731. Beginning 7/6 our Worship Service move to The First Universalist Church of Hardwick through the end of the year. From 7/6 - 8/31 Worship will begin at 9:30 am. All are welcome.

The mission of the Tri-Parish Community Church is service to God by working together as a church to alleviate suffering and to foster hope, love and the word of Jesus Christ among our family and neighbors here and throughout the world.

It's always good to have a variety of voices in the pulpit. Come, support our worship leaders and enjoy the earlier service.

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH
1082 Main Street, Warren, Tel. 436-7327
MASS SCHEDULE: Sundays 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

ST. STANISLAUS CHURCH
2270 Main Street, West Warren
MASS SCHEDULE Saturdays 4 p.m.

QUABBIN VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST
43 Main Street, Ware, MA
Sunday Morning service: 10:30am – 11:30am
For more info James Chaisson
774-200-0542
Email: goodnews@quabbinvalleychurch.net
Website: www.quabbinvalleychurch.net

KINGDOM BUSINESS R.E.A.C.H. MINISTRIES
(Realistic Evangelistic Active Christian Hearts)

Pastor, Rev. Dr. Errol J. Estridge
58 Main St, Ware, MA, Tel. 413-668-9981
email:thekingdombusiness.ware@verizon.net
Tues 6-7pm, Substance Recovery Ministry
Wednesday 6:00-7:00 pm, Bible Study
Thursday 6:00-7:30 pm, Women Ministry

Friday 6:00-7:00 pm, Prayer Meeting
Saturday TBA, Men's Ministry
Sunday 10:30, Sunday Worship
C.H.A.N.C.E. Tutoring Ministry (Children Having a Nurturing and Caring Environment)
September - May, After school, Monday - Thursday 4:00-6:00pm

UPPER ROOM CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
18 Central St., West Warren. Tel. 436-7559
Joel Hickey, pastor
Sunday: 10 a.m worship; Thursday: 7 p.m. Intercessory Prayer

UNIVERSALIST-UNITARIAN
St. Paul's Church of Palmer
1060 Central St., Palmer, MA, 283-8185
Sunday: 10:00 am service followed by coffee hour. Children's Religious Education also at 10:00 am.

OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART PARISH
Sacred Heart Church 22 W. Main St., West Brookfield
& St. Mary Oratory 11 Lincoln St., Brookfield
508-867-6469
rectory@sacredheartwb.com
website: ourladyofthesacredheart.org

Mass Times:
M-Th 8:00am @ Sacred Heart
Saturday Vigil 4:30pm @ St. Mary
Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am @ Sacred Heart
Holy Day Vigil 7:00pm @ St. Mary
Holy Day 9:00am @ St. Mary & 7:00pm @ Sacred Heart

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST BROOKFIELD, UCC
36 N. Main St., W. Brookfield, 508-867-7078
Interim Pastor - The Rev. Stacey Kulgren
Worship 10 AM
Sunday School - 10 AM (except the first Sunday of each month)
Call for Bible Study and Youth Group meeting times.

WARE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH
56a Main St., Ware, Tel. 967-0211
Pastor Jim Van Etten, B.A.D.F.
Sunday: 11 a.m. worship service, nursery and children's church, 4 p.m. worship service
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Bible Study/Prayer Fellowship

WARE CONGREGATION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
Sunday 10:00 a.m. Weekend Meeting
Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Midweek Meeting

EMMANUEL ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH
25 Winthrop Terrace, Warren, MA 01083
(413) 436-5582
Fr. Christopher Nerreau
www.emmanuelorthodox.org
Morning Matins Sundays 9:00am
Confession 2nd Sunday of the month 9:00am or by appointment
Holy Mass Sunday's 9:30am, Coffee hour following Mass
Free Community Mass: First Tuesday of the month. All are welcome

New book details heroin addiction in western Mass

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff writer

AGAWAM – During the COVID-19 pandemic, another grave epidemic has all but slipped from the public eye. Opioid addiction is a crisis, one that takes the lives of thousands of Massachusetts residents each year and has plagued the region for decades.

Mike Tourville, an Agawam author with Chicopee roots, recently completed “Voices from the Fallen,” a book that chronicles the struggles of eight western Massachusetts residents battling substance abuse.

“These aren’t case studies; case studies are dry and clinical. These are deeply personal,” said Tourville, who’s publication is available on Amazon both in print and digitally.

“You almost feel like you’re in the story yourself; you feel like you’re part of it and you feel what they feel. That’s what I wanted to do with this; make people feel like they’re living it with them.”

As it delves into the depths of addiction, “Voices from the Fallen,” is based entirely true. The background of each real-life character differs from the next, Tourville’s deliberate attempt to ensure that the book reaches a variety of targeted audiences.

“A reader may say, ‘Seven of these stories don’t jive with me, but one of them did,’ and that’s all that matters. That can be the difference,” said Tourville. “There’s a 53-year-old grandfather, who started using heroin. I’ve got a pregnant woman who is using heroin and a Hispanic guy from Holyoke. I’ve got a 19-year-old kid who lives in a very affluent neighborhood and everything in between.”

Each story featured within “Voices from the Fallen” is portrayed in the first person, allowing readers to emotionally connect with characters.



Mike Tourville

Not all of the characters make it out alive; Tourville spent countless hours researching and communicating with families who have been affected by the opioid epidemic.

Tourville, who has two teenage granddaughters, wrote the book in an attempt to educate youths, both locally and nationally, on the dangers posed by substance abuse. He walked a fine line as he compiled each story, hoping to create a product that is suitable for a high school classroom.

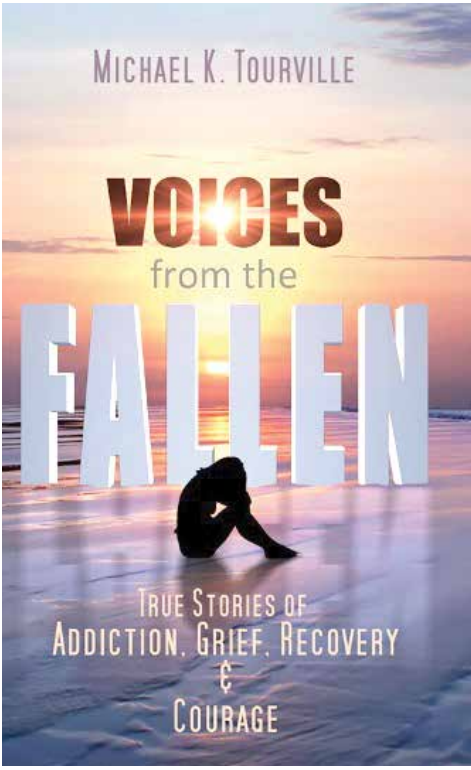
“I didn’t want to whitewash it, but it couldn’t be too graphic. It was really important to have this be accepted by high school students and be recommended by teachers and parents,” said Tourville. “What’s the point of having a book that helps to prevent drug use if parents don’t want their high school-aged children reading it? I had to write it with that in mind and didn’t want to turn people off.”

Thus far, “Voices from the Fallen” has received rave reviews from a number of sources. Actor Dean Cain remarked that it does a, “Fantastic job taking us into the mind of the addict.”

Agawam Mayor William Sapelli was also left with a positive impression. He cited the importance of communicating difficult stories in an attempt to ensure the safety of the community.

“These hard-hitting experiences are extremely impactful and have the potential to save lives of those in a similar situation,” said Sapelli. “The extraordinary courage of these individuals and family members to share their personal stories with the intent of assisting others goes above and beyond expectations. This book is essential reading for those who are at risk or know anyone who may be.”

While the book is finished, Tourville’s mission is not complete; more stories are to



Courtesy photo

Mike Tourville’s latest publication, “Voices from the Fallen,” brings light to those who have fallen victim to the opioid epidemic in western Massachusetts.

come. Tourville expressed his desire to continue engaging audiences of all backgrounds to increase knowledge regarding the severity of drug addiction in western Massachusetts.

Common perceptions and stereotypes can be quite misleading, and Tourville hopes to demolish them. “Voices from the Fallen” serves to remind the public that an individual in need of assistance can be closer than one may think.

“The hard part of that is there’s such a diverse group of people who are affected by substance abuse,” said Tourville. “It’s old people, it’s young people, it’s males and it’s females; people of different races and levels of affluence. I’m hoping this book can inspire people to step up and do something because too often a lot of people don’t know what to do.”

Dalton Zbierski is a staff writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

Home electrical safety subject of Faces of Fire awareness video

The National Fire Protection Association and the Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors have introduced the fifth video interview of their six-part campaign series, Faces of Fire/Electrical, which features personal stories of people impacted by electrical incidents, demonstrating the need for continued education and awareness about electrical hazards at home and in the workplace.

Pam Elliott is the latest interview in the video campaign. In the spring of 1959, then five-year old Elliott suffered third degree burns over 50 percent of her body from a fire ignited by a damaged lighting fixture that destroyed her family home. She spent months during her elementary and high school years undergoing reconstructive surgery to help restore the function of her hands, arms, and legs and the appearance of her injuries.

Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was the leading cause of home fire property damage, according to the latest NFPA research. An average of 33,900 such fires caused 470 deaths, 1,100 injuries and \$1.4 billion in direct

property damage annually from 2014 - 2018. Electrical failures or malfunctions were a factor in nearly nine out of 10 home fires involving wire and related equipment each year between 2012-2016.

“Equipment and devices powered by electricity as well as faulty structural wiring are potential sources for electrical fires,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA’s vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. “Electricity makes our lives much easier but today homeowners expect more out of their electrical systems than ever before, especially with more family members working from home amidst the coronavirus pandemic. The Faces of Fire/Electrical campaign reminds us about potential home electrical hazards, how to recognize the warning signs, and the action steps homeowners need to take to reduce associated risks.”

While new home construction equipped with the latest electrical systems is built to meet the demand of today’s busy households, Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) states there are still more than 47.5 million homes in the

U.S. that are at least 50 years old and built before many modern day electronics and appliances were invented. The need for energy to power these devices, coupled with the increase of computers, phones, and new technologies that use electricity and the number of aging electrical systems and components in older homes, significantly contribute to a greater risk of electrical home fires. Through more awareness and education, homeowners and renters, with the help of a qualified, licensed electrician, can find and correct fire safety hazards in the home before a serious incident occurs.

Overall, Faces of Fire/Electrical features six personal stories of electrical burn survivors whose lives have been forever altered and how more understanding, training, and a change in work culture could have significantly impacted these outcomes. Woven into these stories of resilience is an additional interview with a physician dedicated to the complete physical and emotional healing of patients suffering from a burn injury. Through these video interviews, written profiles, and related information, Faces

of Fire/Electrical is a resource for electrical and non-electrical workers, and the general public to learn more about the importance of electrical safety.

While many electrical injuries prove fatal, those that are not can be particularly debilitating, oftentimes involving complicated recoveries and lasting emotional and physical impact. The Faces of Fire/Electrical campaign ultimately works to help build a safer world by teaching others and supporting the burn survivor community in advancing lifelong healing, optimal recovery, and burn and injury prevention.

Today, Elliott shares her personal burn story to advocate for home fire sprinklers and home fire safety and speaks for the most vulnerable people in house fires including infants, children, the elderly, and the disabled.

People may visit www.nfpa.org/facesoffire each month to watch the videos. Free resources are now available to download and share, and additional information about the Faces of Fire/Electrical campaign can be found on NFPA’s website.

public notices

Trial Court of Massachusetts
The Superior Court
Harry Jekanowski, Jr.
Clerk of Courts
Hampshire County Superior Court
15 Gothic Street
P.O. Box 1119
Northampton, MA 01061
Docket No. 2080CV00073
Abare, Mark vs. Fuller, Priscilla
ORDER OF NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
RE:
Fuller, Priscilla
WHEREAS a civil action has been begun against you in our Superior Court by Mark Abare wherein it is seeking to: Enter a Civil Judgment against you.

We COMMAND YOU if you intend to make any defense, that on **02/03/2021** or within such further time as the law allows you do cause your written pleading to be filed in the office of the Clerk of Court named above, in said Commonwealth, and further that you defend against said suit according to law if you intend any defense, and that you do and receive what the Court shall order and adjudge therein.

Hereof fail not, at your peril, or as otherwise said suit may be adjudged and orders entered in your absence.

It appearing to this Court that no personal service of the Complaint has been made on the defendant a deputy sheriff having made a return on the summons that after diligent search he can find no one upon whom he can lawfully make service, a copy of which is hereto attached and made part of this notice, it is ORDERED that notice of this suit be given to them by publishing, once a week for three successive weeks, the last publication to be at least 20-days before said return day in the:

Newspaper: Ware River News
City/Town: Town of Ware
Date Issued: December 23, 2020
Harrv Jekanowski, Jr.
Clerk of Courts
1/07, 1/14, 1/21/2020

Notice of Public Hearing
Planning Board
LEGAL NOTICE
SP-2020-07

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020 at 7:00 PM** on the application of Frederick T. Smith III, for a Special Permit for annual renewal of an approved earth removal operation under Section 4.8.5, of the Zoning Bylaw, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. The hearing will be held in the Selectmen’s Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Town Hall, Ware, MA. The public is encourage to attend via digital platform **Zoom** Meetings. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784-604-1861; Password: 01082.

SITE LOCATION:
Greenwich Road, Ware, MA. Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 10396, Page 108. Property is also Assessor Parcel 35-0-12. Zoned: Rural Residential (RR).
A complete copy of the

application can be found at the Town Clerk’s office by appointment and on the Planning & Community Development Department website under Recent Filings:

http://www.townofware.com/departments/planning_department/PlanningBoardRecentFilings.php.

Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated. All interested parties are invited to attend.

WARE PLANNING BOARD
Richard Starodoj,
Chairman
01/14, 01/21/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Division
15 Atwood Dr.
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No. HS20P0684EA
Estate of:
Mary Ellen Harper
Also Known As:
Mary E. Harper,
Mary Harper
Date of Death:
October 22, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Ellen M. Kenney** of Winchester, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Ellen M. Kenney of Winchester, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
01/14/2021

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket No. 20 SM 001590
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Linda K. McGuigan
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee relating to J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. 2005-FRE1 Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-FRE1

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Ware, numbered 37 Benham Avenue, given by Scott Gagnon and Linda K. McGuigan to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, acting solely as a nominee for Fremont Investment & Loan, dated August 11, 2005, and recorded in Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 8395, Page 229, as affected by Judgment dated March 17, 2020, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 13743, Page 298, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/Defendants’ Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 2/15/2021 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 1/4/2021

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder
01/14/2021

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.



HOW TO SUBMIT PUBLIC NOTICES

All public notices to be published in the *Ware River News* should be sent directly to notices@turley.com. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call 413-283-8393.

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NEH announces \$33 million for 213 humanities projects

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) today announced \$32.8 million in grants to support 213 humanities projects in 44 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

“As we conclude an extremely difficult year for our nation and its cultural institutions, it is heartening to see so many excellent projects being undertaken by humanities scholars, researchers, curators, and educators,” said NEH Chairman Jon Parrish Peede. “These new NEH grants will foster intellectual inquiry, promote broad engagement with history, literature, and other humanities fields, and expand access to cultural collections and resources for all Americans.”

In Amherst, Melissa Mueller received \$60,000 for her work on the project “Sappho and Homer: a Reparative Reading” which is research and preparation of a book exploring the reception of Homeric epics in the work of the ancient Greek poet Sappho (c. 630–570 BCE) through UMass Amherst.

Traci Parker, also through

UMass Amherst, received \$60,000 for “Beyond Loving: Love, Sex and Marriage in the Black Freedom Movement.” The funds will be going towards research in support of a book manuscript that considers Black love, marriage and family as integral expressions of Black freedom movement ideology.

New NEH Infrastructure and Capacity Building grants, which leverage federal funds to incentivize private investment in the nation’s cultural institutions, will support projects such as ADA-compliant accessibility and site improvement at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford, Connecticut; and digital infrastructure upgrades to the “Freedom on the Move” database of fugitive slave advertisements from eighteenth- and nineteenth-century U.S. newspapers at Cornell University.

This cycle also includes the first awards made under the NEH/AHRC New Directions for Digital Scholarship in Cultural Institutions program, a joint initiative between NEH and the U.K. Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to

advance digital scholarship at museums, libraries, and archives. These new awards will fund international teams of U.S. and British researchers working on projects such as the digital identification and analysis of watermarks on manuscripts by Isaac Newton, and the refinement of spectral imaging methods for determining the geographic origins of cultural heritage materials with the aim of illuminating historical patterns of global trade and cultural exchange.

Other newly awarded grants will support vital research and training programs intended to improve preservation of the nation’s valuable cultural heritage. Among these are a partnership between the University of Hawai’i, Honolulu, and the American Council of the Blind and Helen Keller National Center to develop best practices for creating audio descriptions of humanities collections for blind, visually impaired, and deaf-blind users.

Twenty-one NEH Humanities Initiatives grants will advance curricular innovations and

enhance educational resources at colleges and universities. T NEH Fellowships and Awards for Faculty will support humanities scholars in researching and writing books on connections between the Black Death and the origins of the Italian Renaissance, the influence of John Milton’s blindness on the poetic language of Paradise Lost, the creation of American Catholicism, and a cultural history of the telephone in America. New NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication, an NEH partnership with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support scholarship in digital formats, will fund work on a virtual reality experience documenting the construction and architectural changes to the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls in Rome over two millennia, enable publication of the first scholarly edition of the correspondence and writings of American Imagist poet Amy Lowell, and support a digital study of nineteenth-century Black newspapers in Ohio and their role in civic life.

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or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES:

QUABBIN & SUBURBAN - FRIDAY AT NOON
HILLTOWNS - MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

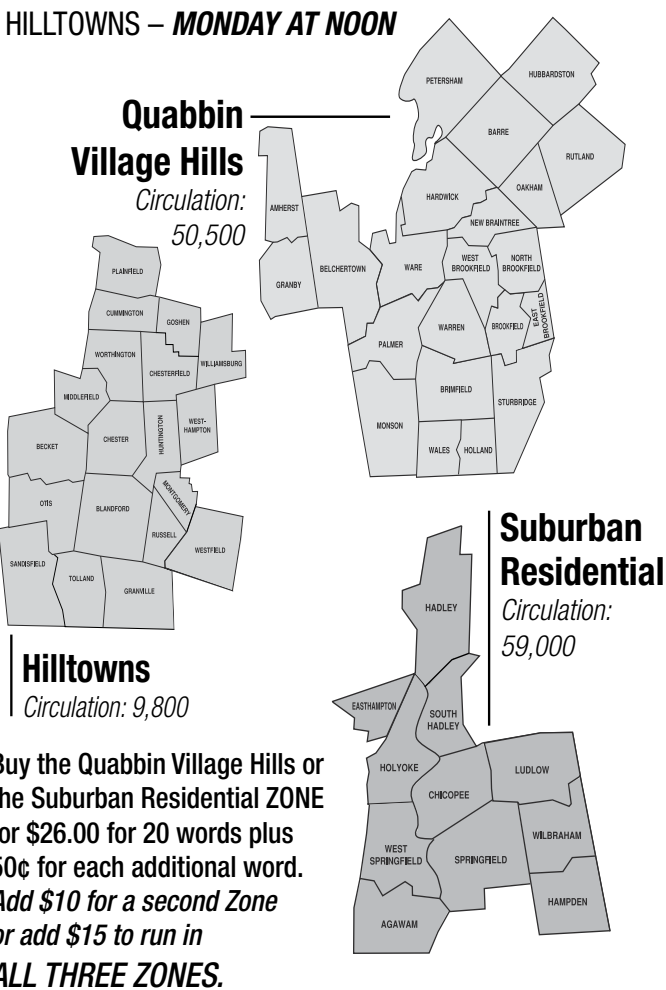
Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

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